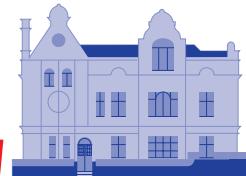


OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2018

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TOP WHERE SOLD

Tributes are paid to father killed on holiday



Charlie Birch

TRIBUTES have been paid to a father of two killed in a hit-and-run incident while on a family holiday in Cyprus.

Charlie Birch, 39, died and his brother-in-law, Will Pritchard, was seriously injured in the crash.

The incident is being investigated as being a deliberate act

and a man and a woman have been charged with premeditated murder. Mr Pritchard, aged 32 and also from Welshpool, is said to be "out of danger".

The tragedy happened in the early hours of Sunday in the holiday resort of Paphos where Mr Birch had been holidaying with his two daughters and mother, as

well as his sister, Mr Pritchard and their children.

Reports in Cyprus say there was an altercation in a bar in the Coral Bay area just outside the town prior to the hit-and-run.

Mr Birch and Mr Pritchard were later found on the Peyia-Ayios Georgios Road with serious injuries and Mr Birch was de-

clared dead on arrival at Paphos hospital. A car was later found abandoned, partly in the water, in the Ayios Georgios harbour.

Welshpool Councillor Graham Breeze, who has known both men much of their lives, said: "Both Charlie and Will are very well known in the town and are both members of Welshpool Golf Club.

"The news has cast a great shadow over the town."

A 35-year-old man and a 23-year-old woman were arrested on Sunday. Both were charged with premeditated murder and attempted murder. Paphos District Court remanded them for eight days.

● Investigation - See Page 8

COUNCIL TO RAISE BABY UNIT FEARS

Report by Jonny Drury

COUNCILLORS are to write to health bosses to air concerns about the decision to suspend births at Oswestry's maternity unit for the foreseeable future.

Health bosses say the suspension of inpatient services at the unit, and at units in Bridgnorth and Ludlow, will continue as they consult with people using the services.

The units will remain open for antenatal and postnatal services.

Bosses say 98 per cent of women were giving birth away from the rural maternity units and they were planning a period of "focused engagement" with service users to seek their views on the service.

Birthing services have been suspended frequently at the unit over the last 12 months and a planned review has suggested births should not take place at Oswestry in the future.

Oswestry Mayor Sandy Best this week said in the light of the latest closure there was growing concern about what the future held.

She said: "The town council has serious concerns about this and we will be writing immediately to express how much local concern there is to this. This has been continuing for too long and it is vital that essential services are provided in Oswestry. The town council will continue to challenge and question this decision."

Health campaigner and Oswestry South County Councillor Paul Milner said: "It is disappointing they have done this again."

"It won't be open until after the review now and that is probably going to be after the Future Fit consultation."

"In that time more people will go elsewhere to give birth because of the uncertainty."

● Anger - See Page 3

England's progress means a business boost



Justin Smart and Beth Smith from Stans Superstore in St Martins are backing England in the World Cup. Photo: Jamie Ricketts.

ENGLAND fans are looking forward to their team enjoying a successful run in the World Cup - and local retailers are enjoying the benefits of the optimism.

A 2-1 victory over Tunisia and a 6-1 hammering of Panama have lifted spirits among fans.

This evening (Thursday) England take on Belgium knowing that they have already sealed their progress to the next round of the football extravaganza.

That is great news for shops and pubs in the region. Stans Superstore in St Martins near Oswestry has seen a run on barbecue meats and snacks as well as cases of beer flying off the shelves.

The store's butchers have been working at full speed making the store's own burgers to keep up with demand and the shop has also ensured there are plenty of baps arriving in its bakery.

Andrew Faulks, a partner in the family-run

supermarket, said World Cup fever had well and truly set in.

"We sold an awful lot of snack food in the days before England's opening match," he said.

Mr Faulks said lager seemed to be the choice of beer among fans, along with pink gin, Prosecco and other sparkling wines, adding: "We sold a lot of bubbly for the royal wedding and I think people are now ensuring that they will enjoy the England game as well."

POLICE

Motorcyclist dies after collision which closes main road

A MAN died following a serious collision which closed a main road near Oswestry.

The tragedy happened after a car and a motorbike were in collision on the A495 near the Narrow Boat Inn at Whittington.

The crash happened shortly after 1pm on Friday.

The motorcyclist died at the scene of the collision.

Bystanders tried to save the motorcyclist by giving him CPR, the emergency services said.

A man and woman in the car suffered minor injuries in the incident and did not require hospital treatment, a West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman said: "When ambulance staff arrived they found bystanders administering CPR to the motorcyclist."

"Sadly, nothing could be done by ambulance staff to save the man and he was confirmed dead on scene."

"The driver and passenger from the car, a man and a woman, were assessed on scene and were found to have sustained minor injuries."

"Neither required hospital treatment and were discharged on scene."

HEALTH

TV baker Diana at NHS celebrations

A FORMER contestant from the Great British Bake Off is helping Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital celebrate the 70th birthday of the NHS.

Diana Beard, from Alkington, near Whitchurch, who appeared on series five of the television baking competition, is getting involved with the hospital's celebrations to mark NHS70 on Thursday next week. As part of the celebrations The League of Friends has organised a baking competition.

● Birthday - See Page 12

INSIDE

New transport festival is held



PAGE 20



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for further details

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We are regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (ipso). Complaints about stories should be referred firstly to us at lain.stjohn@shropshirestar.co.uk or by post to Iain St John, Associate Editor, Oswestry & Border Chronicle, 14 Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NU. If we cannot reach a resolution, contact ipso at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at ipso, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG



Company's headquarters bid to provide a jobs boost

Report by Sue Austin

A FIRM is planning to build its new UK headquarters in Oswestry, bringing jobs to the area.

Aico Ltd, which is a UK market leader in domestic fire and CO detection, says it has outgrown its premises in Oswestry and wants to build a new site on the edge of the town.

It currently employs 55 staff but bosses say numbers could rise to 70.

The company has applied to Shropshire Council for planning permission to build on a site next to the A483 Oswestry bypass and the Maesbury Road junction.

Highways England is nearing completion of a major safety scheme at the staggered junction to install traffic lights and make other improvements.

Aico Ltd currently employs 34 office and warehouse staff at its base on the Mile Oak Industrial Estate as well as 21 field-based staff. In a report to planners it says the projection for maximum staff numbers is 70. The planning application for the new UK headquarters includes office space, a training centre, auditorium, warehouse and packing facilities, car parking and landscaping. The report from the company's architect, DGA, said: "The site will provide an excellent location and new home for Aico Ltd.

"It will help to ensure the continued success of this dynamic and progressive company within the local area and facilitate the creation of much-needed additional employment opportunities.

"The building has been positioned to give maximum exposure and impact from the A483 and will serve as a landmark gateway to Oswestry."

The building and the larger site has, the report said, been designed to be environmentally friendly, with a wildlife garden.

There will even be orchards within the site if the scheme is given planning permission while solar panels will sit on the roof.

Highways England is carrying out three improvement schemes on local roads after being awarded Government funding from a financial pot to help bring forward housing schemes.

Town is blooming beautiful for the summer



Worker Chris Powell uses a small tractor with a water pump and hose to water plants around Oswestry

OSWESTRY is preparing for the biggest In Bloom visit in its history.

Oswestry Town Council workers and schoolchildren are among the band of people who are ensuring that the floral displays are looking their very best for when the judges for the national Britain in Bloom competition arrive later this summer.

It is the first time that Oswestry has progressed from the regional Heart of England in Bloom, where it has won gold for the past 13 years, to the UK-wide event.

Pupils from Bellan House, the junior department of Oswestry School, planted out two new raised flower beds at the entrance to Central Car Park in a bid to impress the judges.

In Bloom chairman Betty Gull, said: "The compost for the carpet beds was kindly donated by Oswestry Green Waste Composting. If other businesses would like to offer us some help, in any way we would be grateful."

For many years the town council has

offered hanging baskets and a planters scheme to the business community, as well as putting its own floral planters around the town centre.

As part of the scheme, council workers offer a watering system for the hanging baskets, with a special attachment on a tractor to ensure the planters are kept looking their best throughout the summer.

Contractors employed to look after Cae Glas Park are also busy keeping the floral beds there looking blooming lovely.

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Head's call to avoid schools' fund crisis

THE chairman of a headteachers' forum is calling for a meeting with the Education Secretary over funding.

Sue Lovecy, headteacher of St Martins School, near Oswestry, and chairman of the North Shropshire Secondary Heads forum, has warned that a funding crisis will be felt by teachers, young people and their families for years to come.

Over the last decade, the government and local authority has slowly withdrawn vital money which has left a gap in many schools' budget.

Ms Lovecy said schools across the county are forced to fill gaps in underfunded services such as mental health support and policing and have to find money to fund nationally agreed pay rises and increased pension contributions for staff. She has warned any pay awards next year that are not funded by the government will force North Shropshire schools into crisis.

She said: "While the new funding formula announced by government has increased my budget this year by £18,000, I have now had to meet a pay award for teachers and support staff and pensions bills of £60,000 - this money has to come from somewhere.

"This would be the biggest real-term fall in school spending per pupil for 30 years.

"My colleagues are finding that they are being called upon to deal with matters that were once the remit of other services.

"This means that existing staffing is being stretched dealing with complex issues that often require expert interventions. The effect this is having on our young people and their families will be felt for years to come."

The North Shropshire Secondary Heads forum meets each term and represents St Martins School, Corbet School, The Marches School, Sir John Talbot's, Lakelands Academy, North Shropshire College and the Grove. Members recently met North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson to discuss their concerns and are now pressing for a meeting with Secretary for Education Damian Hinds.

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Campaigners' anger over birth service closures

Report by Lisa O'Brien

THE decision to suspend births at Shropshire's three rural maternity units for the foreseeable future has been met with anger from health campaigners.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) announced inpatient services would be halted at the rural midwife-led units (MLUs) in Oswestry, Bridgnorth and Ludlow as the trust consults with people using the service.

Sarah Jamieson, head of midwifery at SaTH, which runs the MLUs, said more than 98 per cent of women were giving birth away from the rural MLUs and the decision had been taken due to safety reasons.

She said: "We are planning a period of focused engagement with our service users, during which time we will be seeking their views and feeding these back to the trust board. The time period for the engagement and details regarding how to get involved will be released shortly.

"I must again reiterate that decisions over staffing are made purely on the basis of safety."

Health campaigners have accused SaTH of showing contempt for women living in rural areas.

Meanwhile, a public consultation on the long-term future of Shropshire's maternity services could still be four months away.

Gill George, chair of Shropshire Defend Our NHS, said: "Our analysis shows almost immediately we could have around 250 women giving birth in our rural MLUs.

"All that needs to happen is for SaTH to respect women's choice, and implement national advice on supporting women with low risk pregnancies to give birth in community settings.

"Instead, it's the same approach as with Future Fit.

"Centralise, centralise, centralise; ignore access and choice; force people to fit in with grand organisational schemes that don't meet their needs."

Farmer's cool way to save energy



Stuart Mountford raises a glass to the success of the new machine installed at the farm near Welshpool

A FARM has become only the second in the country to use a new machine that converts energy from cooling milk to create water, which is then in turn used to carry out other farm tasks, such as feeding cattle, while at the same time dramatically reducing the business's carbon footprint.

The Mountford family, who have farmed at Buttington, near Welshpool for more than 25 years, have installed the machine, which is helping them reap both financial and environmental benefits.

The cooling system cost £55,000 to install with a £30,000 tank. It converts energy from cooling milk to make water, and then that water can be used for other things.

"We were approached to do it and now we're only the second in the country to have one. We thought it made sense. There is an outlay on it but because it is energy efficient we get £600 to £700 from the government. It is a great thing to have and is working really well."

The machine and extra tank is also helping the farm produce and sell more milk.

He said: "What it does is use energy from cooling the milk which

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman hurt in collision with car

A WOMAN was airlifted to hospital after she was hit by a car as she got off a bus.

Police have launched an appeal for witnesses after the woman, in her early 20s, was hit in Holyhead Road, Chirk at 11.57am on Wednesday last week. The woman suffered a head injury, along with cuts and bruises, and was taken by air ambulance to North Staffordshire Hospital.

A police spokesman said: "Police would like to thank a passing nurse who provided first aid and several members of the public who assisted ensuring the casualty remained still until paramedics arrived."

Music boxes to be focus of talk

MEMBERS of Oswestry and District Townswomen Guild have their monthly meeting today (Thursday).

It will take place in the Festival Suite in the Memorial Hall in Oswestry from 2pm to 4pm.

This month's speaker is Kath Turner.

She is bringing along lots of different music boxes, some to play, some old, some new and telling the group members all about them.

Spiritual group to meet up again

MEMBERS of Oswestry Spiritual Centre have their next meeting this evening (Thursday).

It will take place in the Cambrian Room in the Memorial Hall in Oswestry.

The event runs from 7.30pm to 9pm and doors open at 7pm.

The cost is £3.50.

Val Laundy from the group said: "Our guest medium is Cerris Hulse who will link the two worlds together and give us evidence from our loved ones and friends that life continues but only in another dimension.

"Come along and feel the benefits of a free taster spiritual and reiki healing session after the demonstration."

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Prom season is upon us

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THE school discos of our yester-years are well and truly assigned to the history books for the modern generation.

When school's out for students today they are not heading for the hall in jeans and t-shirt to enjoy warm pop and a 'funky' teacher hit-

ting the decks. They are putting on their ballgowns and black tie glamour for a night they will hopefully remember for the rest of their lives - the school prom.

Planning for the big night, certainly for many girls, takes place weeks and probably months before-

hand. We would like to see your beautiful promising princesses and princes.

Share your prom experience with us - the dresses, the motors and the school pals together for perhaps one last time.

Send us your pictures from these

milestone events and we will carry as many as possible in the paper.

Please email your picture with names of those in the snapshot as well as details of the school and where the event took place.

They should be sent to pete.carroll@shropshirestar.co.uk

Case prompts a warning to paedophile hunters

Report by David Banner

A JUDGE has warned paedophile hunters not to dabble in what should be left to the professionals after hearing how sex workers were sent messages by a man who later claimed he was trying to entrap them.

Two women that Sean Sardella contacted were so worried about the messages he sent they gleaned personal information from him then contacted the NSPCC and the police.

Enforcement on town bypass

A MAJOR police operation has seen a number of dangerous vehicles and loads stopped on a Mid Wales road and taken off the highways.

The Dyfed-Powys Police specialist roads policing unit, based in Newtown, teamed up with the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and HM Customs to carry out random checks on the Welshpool bypass recently.

A number of vehicles were stopped for breaking the law in various ways, police have said.

Officers have issued a warning to other road users in the area.

A spokeswoman for the force said: "Numerous vehicles received immediate prohibitions not to move from the lay-by and a host of offences were found that could cause a danger to road users."

At Shrewsbury Crown Court on Friday Sardella, 29, of Weston Rhyn, Oswestry, admitted sending indecent, offensive, electronic communications. He was given an 18-month community order and 80 hours of unpaid work in the community and ordered to pay £150 costs. Robert Edwards, prosecuting, said Sardella contacted women on an adult website offering them about £3,000 to 'act out his sexual fantasy'. When they asked for more details he told them it involved a young girl.

When interviewed Sardella said he was aiming to catch female paedophiles. He said he had contacted about 250 women through the website because he had a hatred of paedophiles. The young girl was wholly fictional, he said. Hugh Chambers for Sardella, said his client was suffering from post traumatic stress disorder. It was an unusual case, he said, with Sardella gaining an insight into paedophile hunting through television programmes.

Judge Peter Barrie said: "The sexual exploitation of children is too serious for people to dabble in what needs professional experience to deal with."

Football fans show colours



The Oswestry Wolves flag could be seen during the England v Tunisia game

FOOTBALL fans from across Shropshire and the Midlands are flying their flags for England at the World Cup - even if some have had trouble from thieves looking for a World Cup souvenir.

A flag bearing the words Oswestry Wolves was among those on show for England's opening fixture with Tunisia.

Fans have all reported nothing but a warm welcome from locals, although two other fans discovered their flag missing after the opening victory against Tunisia.

Father and son James and Tim Corfield

hung their Wolves flag from an upper tier from within the Volgograd Arena before the game. Despite the theft, the Corfields are refusing to let it knock them back, claiming they are enjoying the full hospitality of locals, including help to return to their hotel when they found themselves lost.

James, aged 27, said: "It was a great end to the game, but when I turned around and looked up, I realised the flag was gone. We think it was someone who picked it up for a memento, probably to put up on their bedroom wall."

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School's parking trial set to lead to planning bid

Report by Jonny Drury

OSWESTRY School has held a parking trial ahead of submitting formal plans for an extension to its car park.

Last year a planning application was put in by Oswestry School to extend a car park on its Maes Y Llan playing fields.

Objections were made to the application, which was reduced from 42 bays to 27, before it was withdrawn by the school. On Friday, residents discovered a number of parking bays

had been marked out on the field with cars parking right up to their boundary fences. At the same time the parking spaces located on the side of the road near the school had been coned off.

Resident Andrew Field contacted Shropshire Council and took the issue up with the school. He questioned how it was allowed to do this without planning permission and without consulting with residents.

However, the school said this was a temporary parking trial on private land and it can use the land for such purposes on an ad hoc basis for up to 28 days per annum. It will now be submitting a new planning application for a car park. Headmaster Julian Noad said: "I am delighted to report that our roll is climbing, such that we are close to our intended maximum.

"Additionally, the use by others of the school's facilities brings additional visitors. Perhaps inevitably, there have been concerns about traffic congestion on Upper Brook Street by Oswestry School. The school has been looking at ways to address this. On Friday, Oswestry School trialled a new parking arrangement with a view to planning application in due course. I am delighted to report that we were able to collect a good deal of feedback which will be used to improve our plan. Importantly, there was no evidence of traffic hold-up on the morning in question. The planning application, when submitted, will be part of a wider transport management strategy, which includes use of buses, bikes and feet.

Furthermore, the small extension of the car park onto an unused corner of our playing field is just one small part of access design changes which will facilitate parking drop-off on both sides of the road.

"Local residents and those passing through should find their passage much improved."

PART of a building site where two old wartime shells were found is permanently shut off as developers and specialists ponder their next move.

A specialist had been brought in to survey the area of the Chartland Homes building site, off Park Crescent at Park Hall near Oswestry, after a shell was found on June 5. However, when he began work on Monday last week, he immediately discovered another shell and bomb disposal officers had to be called in again to deal with the issue. Work was halted on the site of the former army camp as officers took the device off site to detonate, with residents told to stay indoors for most of the day.

It has caused more disruption for the developers and residents and project manager Andrew Jones said the firm was working with specialists to devise another strategy.

He said: "We are back up and running on most of the site, but it is a small section we have closed down.

"The area is along a fence line of one of the homes and the experts will be returning to start again.

"We are talking about what to do, because we could scan 100 things in that area and we don't know if all of them are shells or some old metal."

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Forces covenant is signed



Headmaster of Oswestry School Julian Noad signs the covenant

OSWESTRY School has signed an armed forces covenant.

Headmaster Julian Noad signed up to the covenant at RAF Shawbury, which is signed by businesses and organisations who wish to demonstrate their support for the armed forces community.

Oswestry School has made a range of written promises to set out its support to members of the Armed Forces community who may consider sending, or who already have, children at Oswestry School.

The school has committed to endeavour to uphold the key principles of the covenant.

The school shall seek to support employees who choose to be members of the reserve forces, offer support to local cadet units, aim to participate in Armed Forces Day and offer specific discounted boarding places for children of serving armed forces personnel.

Mr Noad said: "We are very proud to be part of this initiative.

"The school has always had a close connection to the Armed Forces, both through our CCF and the support we offer to service families and we are more than happy to cement this relationship with formal promises."

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Four hours of heavy scrutiny of Powys County Council handling of the Welshpool Primary Schools project took place on Monday exposing large areas of concern.

Last week I appeared before the council's cabinet to question why a move to increase the cost of the project for new English and Welsh language schools by £3.8million had not been scrutinised by councillors and the meeting was swiftly arranged. The most worrying aspect for me was that £770,000 of the total was needed for additional ground works on the Salop Road site of the Church In Wales Infant School following contamination discoveries. And an admission that no reference to the council's own contaminated land register had been made. The cabinet-style governance of the authority gives too much power to the few appointed top table members and this was a real example of the rest of the council being kept in the dark until the very last moment. I find it hard to comprehend that the cabinet continues to attempt to make such decisions without proper discussions after the council was openly criticised by Welsh Government inspectors for its lack of scrutiny of children's services in Powys. Let's hope that Monday's painfully long debate will serve as a lesson to all those involved. Where the council is going to find an additional £3.8million from is another matter.

Hats off to everyone involved in last weekend's Welshpool Town Council organised Festival of Transport, which brought thousands of extra visitors into the town – a real example of the community pulling together to produce a marvellous event.

Glorious weather helped show off the town at its very best with great use made of the Montgomery Canal and Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway, alongside a fascinating display of vintage four wheeled transport. How impressive was it to see the canal being put to such great use? A timely reminder of the importance of the desperate need to re-open the stretch of water into Shropshire. Imagine the impact this would have had on the weekend with barges being able to converge on Welshpool from Shropshire and beyond. The canal affords a wonderful opportunity to develop Welshpool as a destination town as part of the national water network and it is to be hoped that Welsh Government soon recognises the importance of this scheme.



Batteries on a paper map never run low



Treacherous Crib Goch on Snowdon



Warning – mountain rescue leader Chris Lloyd

Mountain worries over unnecessary call-outs

SUE AUSTIN asks if access to Welsh mountains could be restricted because of the actions of a few idiots

A MOUNTAIN rescue leader has warned there may come a time when open access to the Welsh mountains will be restricted, unless visitors treat them with respect.

Chris Lloyd from the Ogwen Mountain Rescue Service says too many people are unprepared for their trip and end up having to be rescued.

He says with an increasing population and leisure time, more people are taking to the hills and many assume that it is just another walk in the park.

His call was specifically made to people from Shropshire and the wider Midlands who travel to Snowdonia in their thousands but are often unaware of the dangers the mountains hold.

"Mountains bite back and an ambulance won't be there in eight minutes," he warned.

Mr Lloyd said: "We welcome visitors to this beautiful part of the world and hope that they will all enjoy their visit and will return home safely and with happy memories.

"Most people will but, unfortunately, a few will experience an incident or accident on the mountains of Snowdonia.

"Many of these will be just that, an accident, a trip or a slip on steep or uneven ground. However, incidents are often self-inflicted and people going for a walk on the uplands of the UK must be pre-



Members of Aberdyfi search and rescue team who give their time voluntarily

pared." He said mountain rescue team members were all volunteers.

He said: "They are mountaineers by sport who volunteer to assist their fellow hill and mountain users, not sitting in their base somewhere awaiting a call.

"They will be inconvenienced by a call out: the promised shopping trip to buy their child a new bike or their partner something for the house or garden; that evening dinner or trip to the theatre; that piece of work which was promised for a client.

"They will use all their years of experience and hours of training in numerous skills to assist those in trouble on the hills and mountains. They will use all the equipment and vehicles which they have raised funds to purchase.

"They will get satisfaction after a justifiable and successful call out. However, they will still rescue those who have gone onto the hills totally ill-prepared but will be frustrated by avoidable incidents and their employer might not be so lenient to release them from work for another.

"Someone, who through no fault of their own, who has just had a genuine accident may then not receive such good service.

"It is a privilege to have free access to much of our countryside and uplands, a privilege to have a free search and rescue service from volunteers and a taxpayer funded helicopter service. Abuse of these privileges may mean that one day, people are restricted from access to the uplands, the volunteers will be exhausted from too many calls and the helicopter service will be too expensive to fund."

Mr Lloyd said preparation should start at home getting information on the route.

He said: "We ask people to ensure that all your party are wearing suitable footwear which will give good grip and ankle support on the uneven rocky mountain paths and despite of the summer weather, carry spare clothing. There may well be a cool breeze on the summits, or later in the day when the sun starts to go down. Carry a windproof and waterproof jacket."

Walkers should also carry additional food, in case they are delayed and plenty of water.

He added: "The batteries on a paper map don't run low. It is always worth having a paper map to support you electronic device. Have a torch, not just the light on your mobile phone, and take a compass to help orientate yourself. These will help you get off the mountain by yourself. Carry a small first aid kit and take your medication with you."

He said walkers should check the local mountain weather forecast and let a relative or friend know where they plan to go.

He said: "In the event of an accident or incident, dial 999 and ask for the police.

"If you should hear shouts for 'help' on the mountains, call back. Ask what help is needed. Are they stuck or injured?

"Goats sound as if they are calling for help, but they are not. Invariably, it is goats but we cannot risk that it is not. If you see lights on the mountains, invariably, they are those of people enjoying a late evening out. However, if they are flashing from one fixed point at regular intervals, someone might be requesting assistance."

WORKING FOR YOU



Most interesting debate on my Facebook page last week was about cannabis use. The debate had been instigated by the refusal of Border Force officials to allow Billy Caldwell, a 12 year old suffering epilepsy, the right to use cannabis oil medication to alleviate symptoms of his condition. The Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, was so moved by this case, and the public reaction to it, that he responded immediately making the cannabis based treatment available to Billy. He is also launching an inquiry into public policy controlling use of cannabis for medicinal purposes. This was a major change of policy. Much greater than might appear at first consideration.

The debate about cannabis use was also widened dramatically last week when Lord (William) Hague wrote that "the war on cannabis has failed". He is recommending that cannabis be legalised for recreational use as well as for medicinal use. William Hague was until fairly recently our Foreign Secretary, and now lives near Welshpool.

He is one of the most thoughtful politicians of my lifetime. While I am not ready to agree to the complete legalisation of cannabis, I always think Lord Hague's opinions are worth listening to.

I have always been opposed to legalising recreational use of cannabis. Perhaps rather unusually, I have never used any form of mood changing drugs myself. So it's perhaps not surprising that I dismiss cannabis as a dangerous road to addiction. But I can also see from public debate that cannabis is so widely available and used that it's become impossible to police or control. I'm told that many police forces have stopped worrying about it. This undermines respect for the law.

Sometimes reality forces attitude changes on society. Question is "where do we go from here". Seems likely that cannabis for medicinal use will become more widely accepted. This will make prosecutions for any use increasingly problematical because the term 'medicinal' will become increasingly elastic. We need to bring together knowledge and research from across the world, where cannabis has been legalised. We need to know whether it is a 'gateway' drug. We need to know whether legalisation would reduce drug criminality. We need to know whether legalisation would destroy the 'black market' and associated crime.

Glyn Davies
Montgomeryshire MP

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Letters

A different type of election manifesto

WE at the Common Sense Party, the CSP, the way forward, fully understand what the UK electorate want from politics; as little of it as possible.

We agree life is too short and too important to keep getting our eardrums assaulted by a lot of useless rhetoric and vague uncosted promises.

And therefore in our election manifesto we hope to show the way forward.

All elections, national or local, to take

place over two days every five years. Only two weeks allowed for any electioneering.

We can just about put up with two weeks of lies, damn lies and statistics.

UK party leaders to debate twice on TV.

Nationalistic parties of Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales to debate within their own country as very little of what they have to offer benefits the UK as a whole.

No political posters in public spaces. Any-

body who wants to put a political poster on their own land can do so as long as nobody can see it.

Every spending pledge will have been costed by an independent body. Those submitted by the Labour Party and due to be announced by Diane "Abacus" Abbott to be costed by two, or is that four?, independent bodies.

PETER STEGGLES
Longnor

Murder led to key changes in how our justice system runs

A MURDER 25 years ago has in some ways changed our laws and attitudes.

There is lots of discussions about the murder of Stephen Lawrence 25 years ago; who was the son of Neville and Doreen Lawrence.

This happened on the streets of South East London only a mile away from where I was living at the time.

Stephen and his family were members of the Methodist Church in Plumstead, in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, where I and my family attended for 40 years before moving to Shropshire.

Their son's murder changed so many people's lives and views and made us much more aware of what was happening on our streets.

It was a meeting between Neville and Doreen with Nelson Mandela after the murder that made our parliament sit up and listen to the views of the black community.

Out of all the national papers it was the Daily Mail who took on a leading role in the campaign for justice.

I know by doing this they drew in a wider support group including no doubt from many parts of the country.

The family at that time were badly let down by the police who failed to take the death of a young black man seriously.

Some of the changes made due to the Lawrence's fight for justice are:-

It is now possible with new evidence to have a retrial, this is called double jeopardy.

The report that came out as a result of the failed first trial clearly stated institutional racism is very much alive in most of our institutions i.e. churches, police, education, local authorities.

Hate crime is now clearly seen as an important part of our British law system.

JOHN GOODWIN
Shrewsbury

Simple answer to plastic issue

HAVE you noticed that the climate change jobsworths have switched to concerns about plastic?

A very simple way to avoid waste plastic polluting the environment would be to give it a value, so that people could collect and sell it for cash, and turn the material back into oil or gas.

But that's too hard for all the plethora of waste management teams who would be redundant if the public took over.

The Victorians could teach us a thing or two about recycling waste.

Just read Dickens' novel Our Mutual Friend.

W F KERSWELL
Picklescott

The Beautiful Black Forest

The Black Forest, or Schwarzwald to give it its German name, is famous the world over. Deeply rooted in its traditional culture and possibly best known as the home of the cuckoo clock, the Black Forest is an area of mountains and forest 200 kilometres long and up to 60 kilometres wide, which borders France in the west and Switzerland in the south. The Enz, Nagold and Alb rivers and their tributaries have carved deep valleys into the densely wooded sandstone massif of the northern Black Forest region.

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Image of life from yesteryear in village



"Almshouses and church, St Martins," are the details printed on this old postcard. And we can tell you exactly when it was posted, as it was franked at 9pm on September 8, 1905. It is from the collection of Shropshire postcard collector Ray Farlow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

iain.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

We should say farewell to peers

I LIKED Mr Daniel Kawczynski's description of the peers infesting the House of Lords: "Unelected, unaccountable and privileged."

Many of us voted to distance ourselves from the EU for the same reason!

It would be too much to hope the electorate would be given the same opportunity to rid ourselves of these costly parasites, I suppose.

What would your readers like to call it I wonder?

W HUXLEY
Shrewsbury

Not surprised at the result of poll on Syria action

AN internet poll in the Shropshire Star asked 'Should the UK take military action against Syria'.

The result was 14 per cent yes, 84 per cent no. No surprise really as I do not know of a single person who supports this action. Yet after the Iraq fiasco, Theresa May must know the country would be overwhelmingly against it.

She has of course, like Tony Blair, taken instructions from a US President.

Problem is this president is a dangerously unstable individual who could trigger global conflict at the drop of a hat.

If, or more likely when this happens, the UK would be obliterated within minutes.

The British public is continually lied to by the UK government and media to whip up hatred against countries not controlled by the US.

This hatred has now got out of hand and has become an embarrassment to the more level headed and rational of UK citizens.

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NEWS IN BRIEF**More music to enjoy at gallery**

THERE will be more live music at Oswestry's Willow Gallery for music lovers to enjoy.

Faith Brackenbury and John Neilson will be performing at the gallery on Willow Street tomorrow (Friday).

A gallery spokeswoman said: "The hugely-talented and much-loved duo create captivating soundscapes on fiddle, accordion and piano – Faith adding vocals."

"Their music is mostly composed jointly and draws on their backgrounds in jazz and traditional music."

People can call (01691) 657575 for tickets or they can book online by visiting willowgalleryyoswestry.org.

Tickets for adults cost £10 and they cost £5 for children. Start time is 8pm and doors open at 7pm.

Literary festival was a big success

ORGANISERS of a new literary festival are already looking ahead to next year's event after a successful first year.

Montgomeryshire Literary Festival took place on June 9 at Bodfach Hall near Llanfyllin with a number of authors speaking at the event.

Local councillor and author Myfanwy Alexander gave a speech, along with wildlife presenter Iolo Williams who held a session about his book titled Wild Places of Wales.

Literary agent and writer Andrew Lownie led a panel discussion on "getting published".

He also discussed his biography, Stalin's Englishman: The Lives of Guy Burgess.

The day was rounded off with a Botanical Gin Workshop led by Adele Nozader of Brecon Beacons Foraging and live music by Ruth and Ken Powell from Llanwddyn.

Report by Jonny Drury

A POLITICIAN has sought assurances from police in Cyprus that a full investigation will take place into a hit and run incident that killed a Welshpool man.

Thirty-nine-year-old Charlie Birch died and his brother-in-law, Will Pritchard, was injured in the crash at the weekend while on a family holiday in Cyprus.

The incident is believed to have been deliberate and a man and a woman have been charged with premeditated murder.

Mr Pritchard, aged 32 and also from Welshpool, is said to be "out of danger" and recovering in hospital.

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies has added to the tributes and has been in discussion with the Foreign Office about the tragedy.

He also said he has sought assurances from the police in Cyprus that those responsible will be held to account.

He said on social media: "Discussions with the Foreign Office today, following the overnight tragedy in Cyprus, where a young Welshpool man was killed, and another young Welshpool man badly injured.

"Also did some interviews about these discussions but what I can say on such a terrible tragedy is very limited.

"What I've sought is guarantees that the Cyprus police will be rigorous in carrying out investigations, and will hold anyone found responsible to account, and ensure they will face full force of the law.

"Early indications are that this is the case. Feel great sympathy for family and friends."

A TOWN has struck a deal with a local authority to save its library from closing.

In 2016, Powys County Council announced plans to save 50 per cent on its costs of running libraries in the county, and appealed for town and community councils to come forward and help continue to run them.

In Llanfyllin because of the concern over another community asset closing, the town and community councils set up a community interest company aimed at taking on services from the cash-strapped local authority.

The North Montgomeryshire Community Interest Company was set up, and recently a memorandum of understanding was signed by both parties to confirm the library would remain open with running costs being split 50/50. Chair of the CIC, Peter Lewis, said the company has shown the strength of community in the area to keep services alive. He said:

"We are delighted to sign the memorandum of understanding with the library service, and to celebrate that we will continue to have an excellent library here in the Llanfyllin area.

"The formation of the CIC has proved the strength of our communities in this rural part of Powys, and I am proud to be involved in a model which could be an inspiration to other areas. It is a fantastic achievement for 12 councils to come together and agree to cost sharing in this way.

"The CIC approach is unique in Wales and probably in the UK. "Our communities can feel very proud."

The CIC was initially led by former town councillor John Brautigam, and includes 12 town and community councils in the area.

Campaigners in Brexit march in capital

Jayne Middleton and other Oswestry campaigners at the march

CAMPAIGNERS from Shropshire joined tens of thousands of others in London for the largest ever pro-European march at the weekend.

A coach full of protestors joined crowds who filled the streets around Parliament demanding a people's vote on the final Brexit deal.

Jayne Middleton, spokeswoman for the European Movement in Oswestry and North Shropshire, said the crowd was addressed by activists including MPs Vince Cable and Caroline Lucas and actor Tony Robinson.

She said: "It was an amazing day out but the huge numbers show the strength of feeling. The People's Vote campaign is taking off across the country on this vital issue for all our futures. It has become clear in recent weeks that the Government is intent on a bad Brexit deal that will destroy jobs, harm our NHS and wreck the future of our young people.

"Whether you were a leaver or a remainder two years ago, no one really thinks Brexit is going well. Here in Oswestry and North Shropshire we will be out campaigning all summer to make sure the people get their democratic right to have their voice heard."

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Residents to have say on shake-up of services

RESIDENTS can now have their say on plans to remove children's services in Shropshire.

Shropshire Council's cabinet passed plans to remove 20 children's centres across the county last month - saving £875,000.

And now a consultation has opened so members of the public can have their say.

Under the proposals, services would be delivered from The Centre in Oswestry, Richmond House in Shrewsbury, Crownmoor Centre in Shrewsbury, Rockspring Centre in Ludlow and buildings in Whitchurch and Bridgnorth that are yet to be decided. Services would also be delivered at community venues and homes.

Councillor Nick Bardsley, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for children's services and education, said: "The proposed new delivery model for early help services across the county will provide whole family support, dealing with all the issues a family faces, with their full involvement and consent."

"The principle of delivering these services through bases or hubs was generally well received during the first consultation but now we want to know people's views about these more detailed proposals, and about the proposed locations of the six hubs and I urge them to let us know what they think."

"We want to provide support to children and families who are most in need of our help, quickly and in the right way."

The consultation will be open until July 12.

For more information visit shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/early-help-family-hubs-strategy/

Eisteddfod is sending an inclusive message

Report by Andrew Morris

LLANGOLLEN Eisteddfod is celebrating 10 years of its inclusion project with the commission of a brand new performance piece called *Send a Message*.

Students from Derwen College in Gobowen near Oswestry are among those taking part on stage at the musical festival.

The project, which promotes harmony and accessibility for all within the performing arts, has commissioned a performance piece written by poet Aled Lewis Evans and composer Owain Llwyd.

Performed by children from St Christopher's School in Wrexham as well as Ysgol Tir Morfa in Rhyl, Ysgol Plas Brondyfryn in Denbighshire, individuals from Derwen College and the Theatretrain Regional Choir in Mold, *Send A Message* promotes the idea of spreading love and peace via music, song and dance and showcases a range of diverse talent.

Music director of the Eisteddfod Vicki Yannouli said each group represented an assorted mix of members of the local community who would not usually have the opportunity to perform at international events such as the Llangollen Eisteddfod.

She said: "As an organisation renowned for welcoming a multitude of global visitors, year-on-year, the Inclusion Project is something which is close to everyone's heart here at the Llangollen Eisteddfod."

Representing Derwen College, Maryanne Eva said: "This is such an exciting opportunity for the students at Derwen College."

The Eisteddfod runs from Tuesday next week until July 8.

Jack looking forward to festival return



Jack Found is looking forward to returning to the international Eisteddfod

A 20-year-old who has travelled and toured and now lives in London will be returning to his roots for the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

Jack Found, who has been touring and recording songs with his new backing band, has an association with the Eisteddfod dating back to his younger years, when he played in the town's silver band.

He has also been a part of the parade, but hasn't been back to perform at the festival for a few years due to studies and his music commitments elsewhere.

He will perform on the Eisteddfod bill next week and is looking forward to seeing some familiar faces.

He said: "I've been playing with a new backing band, and it is going to be good to go back to the Eisteddfod."

"I haven't been involved for a while as I went to study in Manchester and now I live down in London."

"I've been involved in the parade before with the Llangollen Silver Band, but it will be different with the band this time and I am really looking forward to it."

The 20 year old is chasing his dream and currently has a couple of songs out, and has been busy recording new material.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fundraiser was piece of cake!

RESIDENTS and staff at a care home near Oswestry have raised over £200 for the Alzheimer's Society as part of national cupcake day.

Residents, staff, family members and friends at Chirk Court Care Home raised a total of £220 through various activities.

Mandi Southern, activities coordinator at the Clwyd Alyn Housing Association care home in Maes y Waen, Chirk, said: "It was lovely that so many family members and friends from the wider community came along to support the residents and staff here at Chirk Court."

"All the cakes were hand-baked by our staff and by friends of Chirk Court. The raffle and coffee morning raised a brilliant £220 to support the vital work of this important charity."

Young athletes at networking event

A NETWORKING event for potential elite athletes has been held for a second time.

Good to Great, Oswestry Sports Network, was held at the Lion Quays Hotel near Oswestry.

It involves supporting teenagers nominated by the club or school as having the potential to become elite athletes.

Members included girls and boys from rugby, cricket, swimming and a host of other sports.

The speaker at the meeting was Louise Capicotto, a former European gold medal winning weight lifter, who has now become a sports psychologist with Leicester City Academy specialising in eating disorders and youth sport.

She gave a talk on managing stress and relaxation techniques, giving tips to the youngsters in the audience. The sessions are held by Oswestry Sports Forum.

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NEWS IN BRIEF**Bingo session is organised**

THE next in a series of prize bingo evenings to raise money towards Welshpool 1940s Weekend will take place on Tuesday next week in the Corn Exchange in Welshpool at 7pm with doors open at 6.30pm.

Admission is £1 to include refreshments at half time. There will also be a raffle and tombola ensuring a fun night for all. Donations of raffle prizes and tombola items will be greatly appreciated on the evening.

The 1940s weekend will take place on September 28-30 and organisers are planning an even wider selection of attractions and things to do.

Water firm in new safety drive

WELSH Water is supporting a campaign which warns of the dangers of swimming in reservoirs.

The action comes during The Royal Life Saving Society UK's Drowning Prevention Week, which aims to increase awareness of water safety.

RLSS's national campaign aims to cut the 400 accidental drownings that occur every year in the UK.

Welsh Water's campaign has launched its One Last Breath video campaign which starkly depicts two teenagers who drown after going into the water at a reservoir on a hot summer day - and the terrible impact on their friends and family left behind. Chief operating officer Peter Perry said: "Our reservoirs are great places to enjoy organised activities but all too often people are tempted to risk taking a swim."

All schools now have cashless system in place

Report by Jonny Drury

POWYS has become the first county in Wales to have all schools operating a cashless payment system for school meals and other items.

Powys County Council has introduced electronic payments to offer a convenient method for parents and carers for a range of activities including meals, trips and activities.

Cabinet Secretary for Education Kirsty Williams joined the council at the newly opened Clyro Church in Wales primary to mark the final county school signing-up to the cashless initiative. Cllr Aled Davies, Powys County Council's cabinet member for business services, said: "We are delighted to complete this project as it's a system which benefits all. It makes payment easier and parents/carers will also have the ability if required to see what their children are eating in school. It also reduces the risks and costs of cash handling and transactions. The changes would not be possible without the support of the schools, staff, parents and pupils so we would like to thank them all for their co-operation."

Kirsty Williams said: "There are many benefits to schools using cashless payment systems. As well as protecting the identity of learners who receive free school meals - something that schools are required to do - these systems also speed up the time at the till and make it much easier for payments to be made for a variety of activities."



Council representatives and school staff with education secretary Kirsty Williams

Authority's fraud team honoured for its work

A POWYS County Council service has been recognised for its fight against the trade in counterfeit goods at a prestigious awards ceremony.

The council's Trading Standards consumer fraud team received a highly commended award at the Anti-Counterfeiting Group's (ACG) Awards for Excellence in Anti-Counterfeiting, that were held at Chartered Trading Standard Institute Symposium in Nottingham.

The team received their award on World Anti-Counterfeiting Day.

The awards were introduced by ACG in 1994 in order to recognise some of the excellent enforcement work that is happening in the fight against the trade in counterfeit goods.

The consumer fraud team was shortlisted in the Departmental Award for Excellence in Anti-Counterfeiting Enforcement category, which was won by Bridgend, Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Shared Regulatory Services.

Presenting the highly commended award, the ACG said that the consumer fraud team had "achieved significant results in tackling intellectual property crime in rural mid Wales and across the UK".

It added that the team had "conducted a number of large scale and high quality investigations, crossing regional boundaries. The high level of intelligence logs they have achieved, resulted in viable and successful court cases. They have made a huge impact and work hard to unravel every last piece of intelligence to ensure related authorities are satisfied."

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12 Contribution of women to be recognised

COUNCIL bosses are celebrating influential and inspirational women in Powys as part of National Democracy Week.

National Democracy Week will kick off on Monday with the theme Suffrage Centenary, to mark 100 years since women won the right to vote and the 90th anniversary of the 1928 Equal Franchise Act which gave women the same voting rights as men.

To celebrate, Powys County Council will feature stories on its social media platforms during Democracy Week about influential women in Powys, from any walk of life, past and present. The council will also be sharing stories from female councillors to find out about their role in local government.

In its inaugural year, the week is a celebration of democracy in society, and includes events, talks and fun activities across the UK. The week aims to encourage more people to get involved in democracy and increase participation across the UK.

Councillor Matthew Dorrance, chair of democratic services committee, said: "In support of National Democracy Week, the council aims to inspire more people to get involved in democracy in Powys and share the fantastic achievements from women who have made a difference in their community."

One in five Angel blades contaminated

ONE in five blades donated for an anti-knife sculpture are contaminated with blood, says the businessman behind the project.

Clive Knowles, from the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry, has been collecting knives for the Knife Angel sculpture.

It is made up of knives from surrender bins installed by police across the country and is on display at the centre.

With 250,000 knives coming in since the sculpture completion, Mr Knowles wants to create a plinth for the sculpture.

He said: "It is worrying when you see the shapes and sizes some of these knives are when they come in.

"And then you see around 20 per cent are contaminated with blood."

"It hits home when you see that and makes you realise how important is we get these off the streets."

Mr Knowles is supporting our sister paper, the Express & Star's campaign for a review of knife sales in the UK.

A petition has been launched online. He said: "Anything to stop these knives getting into the wrong hands is a good thing."

"The process of selling needs to be looked at."

"It really is bizarre what you can buy out there."

There are currently 14 weapon surrender bins in the West Midlands.

Anyone with information on those carrying a knife should call police on 101.

Inquest told of kayaking tragedy

A STUDENT and army reservist drowned in a fast-flowing river after his kayak capsized in a weir, an inquest heard.

"There were serious and very brave attempts to rescue him," a coroner remarked.

Kevin Larkin, 28, of Colwyn Bay, was flown by an air ambulance helicopter to a hospital at Manchester but had a devastating brain injury and was declared dead the following morning last January. An inquest at Ruthin was told he got into difficulty at Horseshoe Falls on the River Dee at Llangollen. Assistant coroner Elizabeth Dudley-Jones recorded a conclusion of misadventure. Another kayaker Ross Montandon, who had been walking to the river at the beauty spot, had spotted Mr Larkin tumbling in the water out of his kayak.

He compared the weir to a "big washing machine." Mr Larkin was unconscious by the time he was pulled out. Another kayaker Warwick Redway, who had jumped into the water and reached Mr Larkin, said in a statement: "I found myself pulled under the water, struggling for air myself, and had no other option but to let go of Kevin."

80,000 not online in last three months in region despite growth of use of internet

ALMOST 80,000 people in Shropshire and Powys have not used the internet in three months, figures show.

The world may be increasingly dependent on the internet but many have not been online in the last three months, and probably never have.

Over the last 20 years the web has become more and more a part of everyday lives. Many people check social media or news websites when they wake up in the morning. Shopping, work or simply filling out an application forms for council tax, or benefits, are increasingly online activities.

Data from the Office for National Statistics shows that for many the internet is simply not part of their lives.

But there is evidence that more people are

Report by Christine Dyer

now going online, aided by better connectivity as broadband covers more rural areas. In Telford & Wrekin more than one in nine residents aged 16 or over have not used the internet in the last three months. That's 17,000 adults. And it is likely those people have never gone online, according to the ONS report.

The average rate of non-use for the UK was 10 per cent.

The ONS collected the data over the first three months of this year.

In total 119,000 people in Telford and Wrekin used the internet in the last three months, equivalent to 87.2 per cent.

And figures show that, over the last six years, the number of people using the internet has grown steadily.

A total of 29 per cent more people went online in the last three months this year than in 2012 when the ONS first began collecting this data.

In the Shropshire Council area, one in six people aged 16 and above haven't been online in the last three months – or 41,000 adults.

Only around 84 per cent – or 212,000 people – had used the internet.

But the figures show that 13 per cent more people went online in the last three months this year than in 2012 when the ONS first began collecting this data.

In Powys, almost one in seven of those sur-

veyed had not used the internet in the last three months, equivalent to 16,000 adults.

In total 100,000 people in Powys used the internet in the last three months, or 86.2 per cent.

Again, the figures show growth in the number of people going online, with a quarter more than in 2012. Over the last six years the number of people using the internet has grown.

The figures show that 29 per cent more people went online in the last three months this year than in 2012 when the ONS first began collecting this data. Nationally, the area covering Camden and the City of London has the highest internet usage with 97 per cent of residents having been online in the last three months.

Police officers 'not just playing on mobile phones'

Report by Jonny Drury

A POLICE force has appealed to members of the public to stop harassing officers for being on their mobile phones.

Dyfed-Powys Police said its officers keep getting complaints from members of the public who spot them texting or speaking on the phone.

The force says officers are almost certainly not ordering a pizza or checking up on football scores, but are actually completing important police business.

It says new technology is helping to revolutionise rural policing and enabling its staff to tackle challenges across Powys.

Sergeant Ash Brice, who is based in Montgomeryshire, has spoken out about how having devices to input data while on the go is helping to keep communities safe.

He said an increasing number of people have approached police officers and asked them why they are playing on their phones.

Challenges

However, Sergeant Brice said this isn't the case, and new technology is helping the force to tackle new challenges.

He said: "We have to change and adapt to the way we police in Powys, and having new technology is helping to revolutionise that."

"We have had a lot of comments from people asking why we are always on our phones, but that isn't the case."

"We have devices and tablets where we can input data, we don't have pocket books anymore and don't go back to the station to write up information and statements."

"By having these it may look like we are on our phones, but we are inputting data on the move so that allows us to always be in the community."

"There has been a hashtag of #thisismyofife. By doing this it keeps us on the street and keeps more policing resources out there."

Sergeant Brice said the new technology is helping the force to be more professional.

All the information uploaded goes to a cloud account, which can be accessed by all officers when investigating crimes.

Body-worn video cameras were also rolled out across Powys, and are another piece of technology that has helped policing in the county.

It has helped to reduce assaults on officers. Sergeant Brice added: "The kit has reduced assaults, and makes the force more professional."

Star answers call for support for big fun day



Sam Williams, from the Shropshire Star, with Julia Clarke, director of corporate governance at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

THE Shropshire Star was the first to answer the rallying call to help the county's hospitals

celebrate the NHS's 70th birthday.

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), which runs Telford's Princess Royal Hospital and The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, will celebrate the 70th year of the NHS with a charity fun day and fun run on July 7.

And the trust is asking local businesses to

get involved by donating gifts to put into 500 goodie bags for those taking part in the fun run. Raffle and tombola prizes are also needed.

A first edition of the Shropshire Star plus a copy of the Shropshire Weekly magazine will be in each of the goodie bags.

Julia Clarke, director of corporate governance at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "We are incredibly grateful to The Shropshire Star for their support, and

I would like to thank them for their very generous donation. The support of businesses like the Shropshire Star is so important for our hospitals, as it benefits our patients and our staff."

The 5km fun run will start at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital at 10.30am on July 7 – people can sign up by visiting sath.nhs.uk – and will be followed immediately afterwards by the charity fun day from 11am to 5pm.

Baker Diana to help celebrate 70th birthday of NHS

A FORMER contestant from the Great British Bake Off is coming to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital to help celebrate the 70th birthday of the NHS.

Diana Beard, from Alkington, near Whitchurch, who appeared on series five of the television baking competition, is getting involved with the hospital's celebrations to mark NHS70 on Thursday next week.

As part of celebrations, The League of Friends has organised an NHS70-style Generation Game, where four teams of two staff mem-

bers from different departments will replicate an NHS70 themed cake masterpiece which will be created by Diana.

Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Ian Sawers, who is one of Shropshire's deputy lieutenants, will also be there to compere the event.

The cakes will be judged by Diana and Frank Collins, the hospital trust's chairman, and the team with the cake of closest likeness to Diana's will be crowned the winners. The event is open to the public, and will also be broadcast via Facebook Live.

Diana said: "It's an honour to have been invited to RJAH to help celebrate the NHS's 70th birthday."

"When I was approached about being involved in the Generation Game, I couldn't say no. It's an excellent idea and I'm looking forward to seeing how the teams recreate my cake."

"The whole day sounds like a lot of fun at the hospital, and I'm sure it'll have a real community feel to it."

The hospital's catering team has also organised a street party in Denbigh's Restaurant,

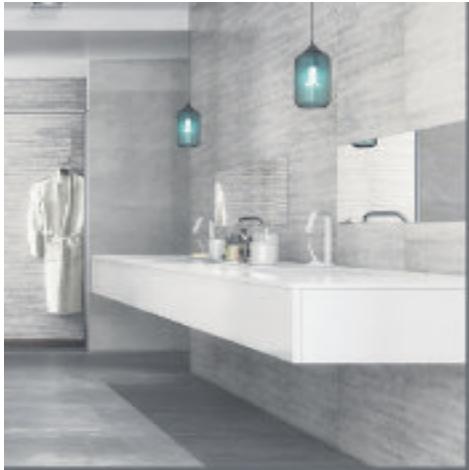
which is part of NHS7Tea, a national event promoted by NHS England.

The street party will feature a celebratory menu of traditional street party food and will be set up so staff, patients and visitors can all sit together.

It will be £4 a head for an unlimited buffet including tea and coffee.

The event will also run from noon until 4pm, allowing staff who work shifts and can't have their break until after the normal lunchtime to be involved.

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14 Members enjoy talk about life on royal yacht

MEMBERS of the Oswestry group of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship held their June meeting at the Wynnstay Hotel.

The speaker on this occasion was Andy Jones who gave a very amusing and interesting talk about his memories from his service on The Royal Yacht Britannia.

He also brought many photographs and artefacts with him for the members of the fellowship to look at.

Members were advised that the summer lunch would be taking place at the Moreton Garden Centre on Tuesday, August 14. As there isn't a formal meeting in July members were asked to confirm places for themselves and guests by calling (01691) 659545 or at the meeting on August 7. A menu will be available at that meeting.

The next meeting of the fellowship is on Tuesday next week, but on this occasion it will not be a normal meeting at the Wynnstay Hotel, but a visit to the British Ironworks Centre, on the A5. Members are asked to be at the centre by 10.15am, where they will be given a talk and conducted tour around the site. Refreshments will be available in the cafe if members wish to stay afterwards. The fellowship is a local group for government and other pensioners who are welcome to attend the meetings, which are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Pupils' joy at excellent exam results

A GROUP of Year Eight students at a Shropshire school have excelled with 30 gaining a 100 per cent pass rate in their exams.

Packwood Haugh School near Oswestry saw the results in the common entrance exams, which means every pupil will now go to their first choice senior school.

The number of scholarships has been steadily building since the autumn term as exams and assessments took place at different times over the course of the academic year.

Bea Grigg and Venetia Hamilton won academic scholarships to Rugby school and St Edward's, Oxford respectively.

Four boys, George Stanford-Davis, Orlando Bayliss, Edward Scott and Morgan Matthews were awarded academic scholarships to Shrewsbury, and Eve Leslie, won not only an academic scholarship to Malvern, but also music and drama scholarships as well.

The arts were a significant area of success for the children with further drama scholarships for Tom Bright and Flora Rachiura and art scholarships for Elsa Waterhouse and Orlando Bayliss.

Seven children won sports scholarships – a traditional area of strength for Packwood.

Packwood headmaster, Clive Smith-Langridge, said: "The children's success is deserved reward for all their hard work, not just this year but over the course of their Packwood careers."

School work is given go-ahead

A PRIMARY school on the Shropshire/Powys border has been given the green light to expand.

Carreghoed Primary School in Llanynech, near Oswestry, is in need of expansion with a host of new rooms set to be added to the facility.

Plans were put in earlier this year to make alterations to the facility, which include the extension of a staff room and a headteacher's office.

Other changes to the school lay-out include a lobby and office area and access via a ramp.

In the planning document that went before planners, it says that the existing headteacher's office and neighbouring office will form a staff room, with other rooms forming the extension.

No objections were made to the application, and a site notice put on the school fence in April received no third party responses.

The application was recommended by planning officers for approval, and passed by councillors at a planning committee meeting in Llandrindod Wells.

New NHS health figures show thousands of people are living with undiagnosed dementia

Report by Lucy Todman

THOUSANDS of people in Shropshire are living with undiagnosed dementia, according to figures released by the NHS.

Figures collected by GPs show that in Telford & Wrekin, there are 1,130 people over 65 who have been diagnosed with some form of dementia. But estimates by the NHS, based on the age profile and gender of patients, suggest that the real figure may be 1,780.

That means an estimated 650 pensioners living with a debilitating illness that has not been formally recorded by their doctor.

And the same figures show that in Shropshire there are 3,468 people over 65 who have been diagnosed with some form of dementia but based on the age profile and gender of patients, the NHS suggests the real figure could be closer

to 4,915. The figures are being collected in response to the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia set up by the previous PM, David Cameron.

The Department of Health wants GP surgeries in England to increase the rate of diagnosis. The target was for at least two thirds of the estimated number of people with dementia to be diagnosed by March 2015.

The latest data, for April this year, shows that the diagnosis rate for the whole of England is 67.3 per cent but area to area this ranges from 41 per cent to 90 per cent.

Shropshire is beating the national target

with a rate of 70.6 per cent. The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) said that doctors realised the importance of spotting the signs of dementia early but in some circumstances might delay making a formal diagnosis in the interests of patients and due to pressure on services to support them.

Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, chair of the RCGP, said: "There may be some situations where GPs might validly consider it in the best interest of the patient to delay seeking a formal diagnosis, especially in the early stages of the condition if there is minimal adverse effect on daily living and functioning and where patients do not want to be labelled."

"This decision might also be influenced by GPs' knowledge of the local availability of as-

essment and treatment services, which may be insufficient to meet demand."

Dementia can affect people at any age and across England 456,000 people have been diagnosed.

The Alzheimer's Society said that getting a diagnosis allows people with dementia to access emotional, practical, legal and financial advice, as well as any support and treatment available.

The society's senior policy officer, Andrew Boaden, said: "Dementia diagnosis rates vary significantly from place to place, which is concerning."

"Alzheimer's Society research shows that over a third of people with dementia in the UK don't get a formal diagnosis, and we believe everyone with dementia has a right to know."

Significant drop reported in EU staff after Brexit vote

Report by Dominic Robertson

THE number of EU citizens registering to work in Shropshire and Mid Wales has seen a significant drop since the Brexit vote, new figures reveal.

The largest drop has been in the area covered by Shropshire Council, with 165 fewer people successfully applying for National Insurance numbers, which are required to work or claim benefits.

In Telford & Wrekin's area the figure has fallen by 131, and in that covered by Powys County Council the drop is 47.

The largest drop in people applying in all three areas was by those from the 'EU8' countries, which joined in the European Union's 2004 enlargement and includes Poland and the Czech Republic. Of these people, in Shropshire 197 signed up, 105 fewer than in the year before the Brexit vote, while in Telford & Wrekin the figure was 404, 183 fewer than before the referendum.

Registering

In Powys 81 signed up – 69 fewer than before the Brexit vote.

The drop in EU applicants comes against an increase in the number of people from the rest of the world registering for NI numbers. In Telford & Wrekin a total of 228 people from the rest of the world registered in the 12 months up to March, a rise of 14 on the period before Brexit.

From outside of Europe, the regions with the highest number of applications were Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia, which includes India and Pakistan, with 80 registrations.

In Shropshire 185 people from the rest of the world registered for NI numbers in the same period, increasing from 28 in the same period before the referendum.

From outside of Europe, the region with the highest number of applications was the Middle East and Central Asia, with 64 registrations.

Powys however saw a fall in the number of applicants from outside the EU, with 57 applicants representing a decline of 11. The highest number of applications came from South Asia, with 14 registrations. Despite the drop in the number of EU applicants the amount of people successfully registering for NI numbers across the three areas is still nearly 2,500. In the 12 months up to March this year 1,148 EU citizens successfully registered from Telford & Wrekin, 928 from Shropshire, and 275 from Powys.

Singers to take to the stage for supper concert



Guitfield Singers are preparing for an evening of light music at their supper concert, under the baton of musical director Paul Wardell

FOLLOWING hot on the heels of their successful concert at Welshpool in May, which had John Rutter's Magnificat as its centrepiece, the Guitfield Singers are preparing for an evening of light music at their popular supper concert, under the baton of musical director Paul Wardell.

The singers will be hosting the concert at Guitfield Community Centre on July 7, with entertainment on the theme "Centenaries".

1918 was a memorable year and the group will have music commemorating the ending of the Great War, the founding of the RAF, votes for women, and a West Side Story medley, celebrating the birth of Leonard Bernstein. Soloists will be Sarah Garrett and Bill Rowell.

The Guitfield Singers may well be making history in giving the premiere of Morfydd Owen's setting of My love is like a red red rose. This Welsh composer died in 1918: she is the

focus of the Gregynog Festival this year, and her Nocturne is to be played at the Proms later this summer. At Guitfield people will hear too her arrangement of the hymn Iawn, iawn.

Places are limited, so people are being urged to be sure to book promptly. They can call (01938) 555249 or (01938) 554047, or buy tickets from Welshpool Jewellers. Choir members will be selling tickets too.

The price, including supper, is £12.

Welsh farmers urged to apply for business grants

FARMERS in Wales are being urged to apply for farm business grants.

The awards are giving to help improve the economic and environmental performance of agricultural holdings, giving a 40 per cent contribution towards capital investments in equipment and machinery.

Sarah Wedge, land agent with Davis Meade Property Consultants at Oswestry, said the investments would have to offer clear and measurable benefits to farm enterprises.

"Available over four years, the £40 million

funding pot offers grants from a minimum of £3,000 up to a maximum £12,000," she said.

"The fourth round of the scheme has opened and farmers will have until June 29 to make an application through Rural Payments Wales."

The capital items available through the discretionary scheme follow five themes, Animal Health, Performance and Genetics, Crop Management, Resource Efficiency, Energy Efficiency and ICT.

Sarah said farms may apply in more than one application round but only one grant award will

be allowed per farm under this scheme. "All businesses applying for the Farm Business Grant will be required to register their business with Farming Connect in advance of applying and eligibility for the Farm Business Grant requires a partner in the business to attend a 'Farming for the Future' event organised by Farming Connect. The individual attending must be registered as a business partner with Farming Connect and Welsh Government Rural Payments Wales."

The business must have a minimum of three

hectares of agricultural land or be able to demonstrate 550 standard labour hours, which will be determined at registration with Farming Connect. Businesses with a total turnover exceeding £1 million are not eligible for the grant. Equine and woodland-only owners are not eligible for support.

The fifth window for application will run from August 6 to October 5. For advice or help with an application contact Sarah Wedge at the Oswestry office of Davis Meade Property Consultants on (01691) 659658.

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16 Police to use new style of breath test

A NEW generation of mobile breathalyser equipment will be used by West Mercia Police.

The requirement for new improved technology to combat the issue of drink-driving is something that West Mercia Police have demanded for several years and police say it is essential if officers are to be equipped to tackle offences in a more efficient manner. Now, with the World Cup underway, West Mercia Police is launching a publicity and enforcement campaign to raise awareness of the issues around drink and drug-driving.

The topic is being highlighted across social media. Increased enforcement activity from police officers across West Mercia will also be in place.

Figures indicate that, over the past three years, 17 people were killed and 104 seriously injured in West Mercia following collisions where drink or drugs were recorded as a contributory factor.

Enforcing the drink and drug drive law is a 24/7 commitment for West Mercia Police and to reflect this police officers will be enforcing at all times of the day and night.

Superintendent Paul Moxley said: "Over time this will ensure our officers and staff are as well-equipped as they can be to help make our roads as safe as possible for all who use them."

House firm gives cash boost to group

A NORTH Shropshire-based Riding for the Disabled group has received a £1,000 donation from a regional builder to help with a fundraising drive to provide an indoor arena.

Persimmon Homes West Midlands, based in Wolverhampton, donated the money to the Perry Riding for the Disabled group through its Community Champions scheme. The builder chose the group to benefit from its monthly match-funded donation.

The group, based in Yeaton, near Shrewsbury, has raised £800,000 towards a £1m total to build a new indoor arena so that participants can enjoy sessions no matter what the weather.

Spokeswoman Jane Barker said: "Since Christmas 2017, there has been a 75 per cent cancellation rate due to bad weather. An indoor arena would mean that no body would face the disappointment of a missed session. We very much appreciate support such as this from Persimmon Homes."

Stephen Cleveley, sales director at Persimmon Homes West Midlands, said: "The Perry Riding for the Disabled Group is clearly in demand and providing a valuable service."

"We are more than happy to support them."

If people were unsuccessful in their Community Champions application, we urge them to visit the Persimmon Homes website and to try again and hopefully they will become our next recipient."

Jason supporting new magazine

A MAN who appeared on hit TV show *The Undateables* has given his backing to a new magazine which showcases real stories from people who use social care, to those who work 24 hours on the frontline to support vulnerable people.

Shropshire Council's annual Local Account for 2017-18 entitled "Making it Real in Shropshire - our story continues", is written for residents by those who use the service, as well as council officers and service providers. The publication has been co-ordinated by Shropshire's Making it Real (MiR) group, which is made up of people who use adult social care, as well as senior council officers, to ensure social care services meet the needs of those who use them. Jason Evans appeared in the Channel 4 show in a bid to find a girlfriend after years of being alone. The magazine has real-life stories, information on the council's achievements in adult social care and its performance, feedback from those who use the service and future plans for improvement. Jason is also featured in the brochure, talking about his experience of receiving support to manage his finances.

Surgeon says hospitals must change to ensure better patient care and outcomes

A SURGEON has argued that Shropshire's hospital services must change to make them fit for the future.

Mark Cheetham, who works at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), says the Future Fit model of care has clear advantages and will provide better care and results for patients.

The proposals involve having a single emergency centre to serve the whole of the county and a public consultation is currently underway.

Mr Cheetham said: "Every patient has the right to expect high quality, safe NHS care, now and in the future - but to do this, we need to change the way we deliver our hospital services.

"We want to make sure that patients are

seen by the right person at the right time in the right place. As a surgeon working across both hospitals, I know first-hand that this isn't always happening."

"People in the UK are living longer than ever, which is good news. But they are living longer with ill health, which is creating increasing demands on the health system.

"When I first qualified as a doctor, my typical patient would be someone in their 50s who has had a heart attack, but had nothing else wrong with them.

"Now, many people admitted to hospital are in their 80s with several long-term conditions,

such as diabetes, heart disease or chronic kidney disease.

"This is particularly true in Shropshire, which has a higher proportion of older people than most counties in England."

He said improvements in medicine and technology have led to people's expectations of healthcare being higher, and those standards can only be met by more care being delivered directly by fully trained consultants.

Mr Cheetham says nowadays more specialists are needed to deal with emergencies, but these are spread across two sites under the current healthcare system in Shropshire.

Currently, there are only emergency surgeons at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and paediatricians at Telford's Princess Royal Hospital.

Mr Cheetham said: "This means it's really difficult to look after children who need emergency surgery."

"It can also mean that patients are sometimes admitted to the wrong hospital, which creates a delay as they need to be moved to the right hospital to meet their needs."

"What we want to do is to create a specialist emergency site that contains all of our specialist doctors."

"This would mean patients are seen more quickly by the right person at the right time, resulting in better care and better outcomes for our patients."

He says the current arrangements mean operations are often cancelled at short notice due to beds being taken up by emergency patients.

Thousands of homes in region remain empty despite crisis

Report by Aimee Jones

MORE than 6,000 homes in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin are vacant despite warnings of a national housing crisis.

And new figures from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government show that hundreds of properties have been left unoccupied for at least six months.

In October last year, when the most recent count was taken, there were 4,375 empty homes in Shropshire and 2,069 in Telford and Wrekin.

Across England there were more than 600,000 vacant properties last October, more than a third of which were long-term vacancies.

John Green, chief executive of Stay Telford which provides housing and support services to homeless and vulnerable people in the area, said: "The existence of empty homes at a time of increasing homelessness is on the face of it very frustrating.

"However, the housing needed to help reduce homelessness first of all needs to be suitable and affordable, and secondly requires the right packages of support to address the underlying causes of homelessness."

Classed

In Shropshire, one in every 33 houses is empty and of those, 1,555 were classed as long-term vacancies, meaning they had been unoccupied for at least six months. Across the border, the figure was lower at just 360 long-term vacancies. Despite the figures, Karen Collier, Shropshire Council's regulatory services operations manager, public health, said there is a housing shortage. She added: "In Shropshire the vast majority of empty properties are privately owned and are dispersed throughout the urban, semi-rural and rural areas of the county.

"There are not huge clusters of derelict and boarded-up empty properties, as can be found elsewhere in the country, but there is a shortage of housing across the area.

"As such it is necessary to make the best use of the county's existing housing stock, ensuring a supply of good quality homes for people to rent or buy to meet the needs and requirements of local communities."

A spokeswoman for Telford & Wrekin Council said: "The majority of empty properties are classed as transitional empty properties, which means that they are either up for sale or to let and are just waiting for a tenant or owner to purchase them."

Orthopaedic patients keen to sign up for studies



Members of the Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital's research team have exceeded their target for recruiting patients to take part in studies

THE research department at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is celebrating after exceeding its target for recruiting patients to take part in its studies by 36 per cent last year.

The hospital is one of 27 trusts in the region which work with the Clinical Research Network West Midlands (CRN WM).

New figures published by CRN WM show that 70,720 people took part in clinical research in the region in 2017/18 - the most ever in a

single year. Those figures include 817 participants from the orthopaedic hospital - beating a target of 599. Debra Alexander, a participant in a pain study at the hospital, said: "I would definitely take part in any future trials as it is good to have the opportunity to give something back, and the only thing it costs is a little of your time."

"The outcomes are very important for improving future treatments and benefitting

patient welfare." Teresa Jones, research manager, said: "This is fantastic news for the region as a whole and I'm delighted that RJAH has not only contributed to this mammoth figure but that we've also exceeded our own target. I'd like to thank all staff members who have been involved in our research studies. Being an active research organisation means we are working towards trying to find better treatments and outcomes for our patients."

Welshpool, Newtown and Llandrindod Wells have been the main towns targeted, and over the border in Oswestry an operation has seen drug dealing groups driven out of homes.

PS Brice said the public and partner agencies have helped to identify incidents, and he has called for that to continue. He added: "We have tried to be more open because the public have information that we need."

Officers take fresh action to tackle drug dealers

A POLICE force has adopted new methods in a bid to stamp out cuckooing and drug dealing in its communities.

Police forces across the UK have seen a rise in cuckooing, which is when drug dealers drive vulnerable people out of their homes and use them as a base to deal from.

The problem spread into Montgomeryshire and across Powys last year, and teams across the region have been battling to stamp it out of communities.

A number of arrests have been made in New-

town and Welshpool and officers are trying to identify vulnerable victims before they are targeted.

PS Ash Brice said: "It was late last year when the problem was brought to our attention and we began to tackle it.

"People know the methodology of cuckooing but it wasn't something a lot knew about with drug dealing, so we have been educating people and trying to stamp this out."

"A number of arrests have been made, and a number of people are now on bail.

"What we have been trying to do is prevent it before it happens, by going around areas and identifying vulnerable victims who could be a possible target."

"We have informed them and their families of what happens, what could happen, and given them tips to protect themselves against being targeted."

"This is happening in Montgomeryshire, but also in other areas of Powys and arrests have been made as part of the County Lines scheme.

"We are doing as much as we can to prevent

this crime, and to make Montgomeryshire and Powys as unattractive to drug dealers as possible."

Welshpool, Newtown and Llandrindod Wells have been the main towns targeted, and over the border in Oswestry an operation has seen drug dealing groups driven out of homes.

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Canal forum to hear about work

A MEETING over the future of a canal that is being restored is to take place.

The Montgomery Canal Forum is an annual opportunity to learn more about the Montgomery Canal and plans for its future and this year will be opened by Russell George AM, the new vice-president of the Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust.

The Montgomery Canal Forum will be held this year on Monday.

It will be held at 2.30pm at The Assembly Room at the Town Hall, Broad Street in Welshpool.

There will be two main presentations on celebrating the flora and fauna of the Montgomery Canal by Brian Hobbin of Shropshire Wildlife Trust and establishing a canalside enterprise.

Art competition winners chosen

IN 2018, this year of commemorating the centenary of the end of the Great War, it was appropriate that this was the topic chosen for the subject of Oswestry Rotary Club's annual Millcent Kaye art competition.

With over 200 entries from nine schools the competition judge Joan Turner was faced with the huge task of selecting the winners. The 2D winner was Charlie Miller from Moreton Hall, runner-up was Lauren Doodson of Holy Trinity and third was Ruby Prust of Trefonen. Oliver Hamlett of Our Lady and St Oswald won first prize in the 3D competition with Charlie Bird from Moreton Hall second. The Millicent Kaye Award 2018 was presented to Holy Trinity whose pupils were judged to have made the greatest effort.

An exhibition of a selection of the entries is open to all at The Qube until Saturday.

Warehouse is quickly snapped up in £1m deal

A RETAIL warehouse which has an estimated 10 million vehicles drive past it each year has been snapped up within hours of going on the market for £1 million.

The warehouse fronts onto the Mile End Roundabout in Oswestry, one of the busiest junctions in the county, where the A5 and A483 come together and extends over a sizeable site.

James Evans, of Halls Commercial which is instructed on the site, said: "Property doesn't come along very often in such a prominent high profile location and this site has some wonderful potential."

"We said this property would suit a variety of retail and trade counter uses and benefits from valuable A1 retail consent."

"It was available to rent or to buy and we can confirm it was under offer within 24 hours of it going on the market."

"It is estimated more than 10 million vehicles pass this site each year and those people familiar with Oswestry and Mile End know just how busy a road this is day and night."

It is located within the Oswestry Gateway, a development accessed off the Shrewsbury Road.

Mr Evans said: "We look forward to announcing who the buyer is very soon."

"The timescale in which these premises were under offer is a fantastic example of the buoyant market and the desire for businesses to call market towns such as Oswestry their home. Our county is attractive and the fact this had an offer so quickly shows the strength of that appeal. Our team in the commercial department are very busy which is always great news for the county economy."

Report by Sue Austin

STUDENTS at a college near Oswestry can go to the ball after a donation from a local business.

Oswestry architect company DPA donated £400 towards Derwen College's annual summer prom.

Students and staff at the specialist college for young adults with learning difficulties and disabilities said they were grateful to receive the generous cash boost towards the event's entertainment.

Principal Meryl Green said: "The Prom is a highlight in the student calendar and a wonderful way to round off the year and say a fond farewell to our leavers."

The Oscars-themed party is the last big event for students to enjoy before they break up for the summer holidays, or leave college for good. It is their chance to get dressed up, glammed up and party with their friends.

"A lot of work and planning goes into this event which is organised by the Student Union Board. Every year students choose a theme and this year they will be recreating an evening at the Oscars."

Picking up the donation from DPA were Student Union Board representatives Ashley Beech, Rachel Pickford and Megan Eayrs.

Gavin Porritt and Gareth Edwards, directors of DPA said: "DPA are delighted to sponsor the Derwen Prom this year – it is a well-deserved charity and we always enjoy working with the college and meeting the students."

Students from across the country enjoy residential education at Derwen College along with local day students. They can choose from a range of work based studies.



Rachel Pickford, Megan Eayrs and Ashley Beech with the £400 donation from DPA architects in Oswestry

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Challenge to bring a canal boost

A STRETCH of water could see an increase in visitor numbers as a national charity challenges waterways users to explore underused parts of the country's canal network.

The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) has just nominated Berriew as a qualifying destination in its Silver Propeller Challenge scheme, which encourages boaters, canoeists and paddle boarders to make more use of the less-frequented lengths of the nation's waterways.

Berriew and Gronwen Wharf, the present limit of navigation on the Montgomery Canal in Shropshire, is included in the 30 destinations that enthusiasts can visit to gain an IWA Silver Propeller Challenge plaque.

The challenge aims to increase visitors to the very extremities of the 3,500 mile network of waterways across England and Wales. IWA's Shrewsbury District and North Wales Branch chairman Michael Haig said: "The Inland Waterways Association has supported the revival of the Montgomery Canal since the earliest days: indeed, members were expressing concern about its derelict state in the 1950s. In the years since, a huge amount of effort by volunteers of IWA's Waterway Recovery Group and the Shropshire Union Canal Society has restored locks and bridges and rebuilt derelict lengths of the canal."

"Today the towpath is open for the entire 35 miles from Newtown to Welsh Frankton near Ellesmere, and half the canal has been reopened for boats."

Medical roles are spelt out to youngsters

MEDICAL professionals came together to hold a conference at a school and speak about exciting career options.

Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital staff, along with Powys NHS and Stem Learning, visited the Marches School in Oswestry and Sir John Talbot's School in Whitchurch to talk about opportunities in the medical industry.

The prospective students listened to and asked questions of medical professionals from a wide range of roles including theatre nurse, research project manager, pharmacist, ward manager, consultant radiologist, medical physicist, physiotherapist and trauma and orthopaedic surgeon.

As an added bonus, a member of staff at the academy trust, who is a former Army Medic conducted an evacuation scenario.

Meg Murphy, careers advisor, at the Marches Academy Trust, said: "We would like to pass on our gratitude to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Powys NHS and Stem Learning for introducing the medical professionals to us and of course to the speakers who gave up their free time to attend the event."

Train supplier deal announced

THE supplier of a fleet of new hi-tech trains for the Wales and Borders franchise has been announced.

Earlier this year, KeolisAmey was chosen to take over the franchise from Arriva Trains Wales, and it was also announced commuters from Wales over the border would enjoy a better and more frequent service. Now the operation has appointed Vivarail, based in Stratford-upon-Avon, to supply a fleet of Class 230 D-Trains to KeolisAmey for the Wales and Borders franchise.

Adrian Shooter, chief executive of Vivarail, said: "We know that KeolisAmey want to bring the best new trains to their passengers so our interior layout has been designed to do exactly that. As well as the wide and spacious carriages the trains will have a universal access toilet, WiFi, air conditioning, USB ports and 3-pin sockets."

Club members are bowled over by royal award



Knockin and Kinnerley Cricket Club is often a hive of activity for people of all ages



Getting young people involved in the game is important at the club

KNOCKIN and Kinnerley Cricket Club's members travelled to a royal garden party at Buckingham Palace and the club has been cited in the London Gazette.

It is set down a country lane with often a field of cows joining those watching the games. It is also a hive of activity, both on match days and through the week.

The club has become the first in Shropshire to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service recognising the input from its members, both on and off the pitch. Committee

members travelled to a royal garden party at Buckingham Palace and the club has been cited in the London Gazette.

Volunteering roles at the club are wide and varied. Many players and former players give up their time to coach the thriving junior section and new women's section, encouraging those who want to play either competitively or socially.

Chairman Barrie Hawkin said: "The award

recognises excellence in voluntary activities we carry out. This is a landmark achievement in the 158-year history of our village cricket club and we should all take pride that, henceforth, we will always be Knockin and Kinnerley Cricket Club (QAVS).

He said the club had gone from strength to strength in recent years with the willingness of people to give up their time to help, meaning that young cricketers could be coached and pro-

gress through the teams. He said: "The club is enjoying great success both on and off the field with a growing membership in excess of 200 and unprecedented competitive success for our senior and junior teams. Rather than rest on our laurels, the granting of the award means the club can go from strength to strength as we provide sporting and social skills for all ages, genders and abilities in this beautiful part of rural Shropshire."

Good causes turn out to back town's charity market



Bryan Jones was at the market in support of the Katkando organisation



Christine Myddleton, Marion Clucas and Ivor Clucas from Oswestry and Borders Foodbank

Report by Jonny Drury

MORE than 20 charities turned out for a twice-yearly charity market in Oswestry to raise money for their good causes and spread the message about the work that they do.

The event allows a number of charities from the local area to take over the Bailey Head in the centre of the town and raise their profile to gain support for the charities.

At the latest event, 25 different stalls turned out in the sunshine.

David Clough, Oswestry markets manager, was delighted with how things went at the eighth event that had been held.

He said: "We had over 25 stalls here and it was really good.

"There was a good turnout which was partly down to the nice weather we have had and it was a good atmosphere.

"We have these markets twice a year and it allows the charities to meet with people and to raise awareness of good causes.

"But another thing that is nice to see is that the charities use it as networking, to chat with other charities.

"It was the eighth one we have held, and we will have another one coming up on the first Friday in September."

A number of different charities had stalls.

Shopper Tom Edwards said: "It was a really good event and a great way for people to raise money for good causes."

"It was nice to see so many shoppers out and about on Bailey Head supporting a range of good causes raising money for the local area."



Kim Thompson-Lawrence from Qube who helped organise the charity market



Raising money for Breast Cancer Care at the charity market in Oswestry were Nick Burns and Shirley Burns



Ruth Allen with Piper a hearing dog for deaf people

Tasty treats served up at hospital is best in country

HOSPITAL food has been the butt of jokes for decades but Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital has proved the comedians wrong.

The hospital has been named best in the country for the food it serves on its wards for the third year running.

It also came joint second in overall patient experience.

Patients selected to take part in the Care Quality Commission's adult inpatient survey were asked more than 70 questions on

Report by Sue Austin

all aspects of their care. The survey included the question: "How would you rate the hospital food?", with respondents asked to give a mark out of 10.

The orthopaedic came out on top, with an average score of 8.02 – comfortably ahead of the other 148 trusts in the survey – and an improvement on last year's winning score of 7.6.

When patients were asked were they offered a choice of food the hospital scored

even more impressively. Its average score of 9.66 was again the highest in the country.

Phil Davies, head of estates and facilities said: "High quality, nutritious food is absolutely vital for patients during their time in hospital, and we work hard to ensure that is exactly what they get."

"We are extremely proud of the food we produce, and it's extremely rewarding that our patients are pleased with the food they're provided with. This is the third year running that our food has been voted the best in the country by our patients."



The catering team at the orthopaedic hospital celebrates its number one position

New use for old chapel near landmark

A DERELICT chapel in the shadow of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct near Oswestry has been given a new lease of life, transformed into a tea room.

Business partners Sally Roberts and Carl Pottenger of Trevor gave up their jobs and took on the ambitious project in 2016 to convert the former Bryn Seion Chapel in Trevor into the Pontcysyllte Chapel Tea Room, close to Thomas Telford's famous structure.

The aqueduct gained World Heritage Site status in 2009 and has seen the area boosted by increased visitor numbers since.

They were given a £30,000 grant from the Welsh Government's Tourism Investment Support Scheme and now employ 12 staff on a full-time, part-time and casual basis.

Carl oversaw the renovations, ensuring local craftsmen were employed to carry out the work while Sally set about identifying and applying for funding, before quitting her job with a high street bank last year to concentrate on the project full time.

Phase two of the project is already underway with the transformation of the remainder of the building into five modern, airy B&B bedrooms – two on the ground floor, including one with disabled access and three on the upper floor.

It is intended that two bedrooms will be completed and available from mid-July.

Sally said: "It was certainly a daunting prospect to purchase the chapel but I'd seen it falling into disrepair on a daily basis in recent years and thought what a great tea room and B&B it would make. So when I met Carl we both decided to make it a joint venture and took the leap to buy the property."

The Pontcysyllte Chapel Tea Room was officially opened by Lord Elis-Thomas, AM and minister for culture, tourism and sport.

He said: "I'd like to congratulate Sally and Carl for their vision in seeing the potential in this historic building."

Anne in climb with star Daley

A FORMER PE teacher joined another 60 60-something things on a trek to Snowdon – to celebrate an Olympic gold medallist's 60th birthday.

teacher, who has undergone numerous operations on her knees and hip in recent years, and also suffers from a form of arthritis.

She said: "I've been up Snowdon a few times but this was extra special. It was so nice to be chosen for this, and Daley was lovely, he was a bit mad but he was a really down to earth and nice man."

"There was so many other inspirational people, there was an 81 year old climbing, and others who were older."

"We began about 8.30am and got to the top and it was a long slog coming down, but it was a fantastic experience."

Rural areas targeted

THEIVES have targeted rural areas around Oswestry. A burgundy coloured Ifor Williams horse box was stolen from outside premises in The Terraces, Morda, Oswestry, between 2.30pm and 5pm on June 6 while a metal farm gate was reported stolen from a field at Grinpool, West Felton on June 11. The theft took place sometime during the previous two weeks.



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Cannabis law change demanded

NINE out of 10 people support legalising cannabis for medicinal purposes, according to a Shropshire Star poll.

It is a stance supported by long-term spinal injuries sufferer Roy Scott from Oswestry.

The 42-year-old suffered an accident 19 years ago that left him disabled and suffering spasms that can throw him from his chair and leave him in pain.

He has 24-hour care and has long been calling for the use of medical cannabis to treat his condition.

Mr Scott believes it is time to start talking about legalising medical cannabis for more treatments. He is stuck in his home for most of the day, and believes medical cannabis will be hugely beneficial for him and thousands of others across the country. He said: "With all the national coverage and talk of it at the moment, it is time to start talking about it. It is time to legalise the use of medical cannabis for a number of conditions. We are one of the largest exporters of medical cannabis but we don't really use it for treatment."

"The highs are taken out by the companies which produce it. The government needs to wake up and change the law on it. There was one case where someone went over to Europe, and by using it went from 100 seizures a day to one in 30 days."

Mr Scott has tried conventional treatments and others, including botox and even cannabis, and believes that the drug Sativex, given to patients with MS, could relieve his symptoms.

Man cleared over extreme porn charges

A MAN has been cleared by a jury of possessing almost 200 extreme pornographic images on his phone.

Jordan Beeson, 21, of Bron-y-buckley, Welshpool, was on trial for having images on his phone depicting sex acts between animals and humans.

The jury heard that the images were discovered when Beeson's mobile phone was examined by the police.

Mr Beeson said he was not aware of the images and told the jury that they were nothing to do with him.

He denied the offence of possessing the images between September 2016 and April 2017.

He said that the images must have been on the mobile phone before he purchased it second hand and that he had never seen them.

Defending barrister Paulinus Barnes told the court that his client was adamant that he knew nothing of them and therefore he could not be in possession of them.

Mr Beeson was formally found not guilty of the allegation and he was discharged by the judge, Mr Recorder Nicholas Gareth Jones.

Chance to take look at project

THE Canal & River Trust charity is inviting the public to take a rare behind-the-scenes look at a £4 million project to restore a section of the Montgomery Canal near Oswestry.

On Thursday next week, the trust will be hosting two guided tours at 11am and 2pm to see the new Aston Locks Nature Reserve, which is being created next to the canal to provide a protected home for birds, wildlife such as damselflies, dragonflies, otters and water voles, and rare aquatic plants.

Places on the free guided tours are limited to a maximum of 20 on each tour and can be reserved in advance at eventbrite.com/e/aston-reserve-behind-the-scenes-tour-tickets-47205806839.

Participants are asked to meet in the car park at Queens Head, near Oswestry, by 10.45am and 1.45pm, and wear sensible footwear.

Overtaking lorry just misses learner driver on A483



The lorry overtakes traffic and heads towards the learner driver on the A483



Close – the learner driver reacted quickly to avoid a road collision

A STUDENT on a driving lesson was almost struck head-on by an overtaking lorry.

Catherine Jones, who is a driving instructor at Stop and Go Driving, was taking a student out for a lesson on the A483, between Welshpool and Newtown.

When driving down a slight hill, the student was forced to stop dead after a lorry decided to overtake a row of traffic – including tractors.

The lorry driver only just managed to cut

back into the right side of the road, narrowly avoiding a head-on collision with the learner.

Mrs Jones had a dash cam in her car, and her husband Gareth took to social media to highlight the reckless driving on the stretch of road by posting the footage online.

He was unhappy with the manoeuvre which he said could have left two families devastated. Mr Jones took to Facebook to say: "This happened on a lesson that my wife was conducting.

"She was amazed with how well the pupil reacted to both what was happening but also after the incident.

"They found somewhere to pull over and talked about the dangers you can encounter on the road and how important to keep concentrating whilst driving.

"I phoned the company to speak to someone in charge after I saw the video because I was fuming.

"This idiot of a human being, never mind a driver, needs to realise his actions could have resulted in two families being absolutely devastated by the loss of their loved ones because he was 'in a rush'."

The video posted on Facebook on Wednesday last week has received more than 10,000 views and numerous comments.

Mrs Jones said the incident had now been reported to the police.

Classic and vintage treats for enthusiasts at festival



Some of the classic cars at the Welshpool Transport Festival



Philip Daquincey with his 1947 Fordson



A variety of cars lined up for the transport festival in Welshpool



Paul Mayhew from Aberhafesp with his Ford V8 Pilot



Phil Davies from Welshpool with his 1960 Morris Traveller at the festival



Some of the lorries on show at the transport festival in Welshpool

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Modern house has exceptional views from sun lounge

Sundawn is a modern house with exceptional westerly views across Shropshire and on towards Wales, set on the edge of the ever popular Ruyton XI Towns village.

It is for sale through Balfours estate agents at £495,000. Sundawn is as fresh and crisp as its name suggests – due to the wow factor of westerly views from the sun lounge. This five bedroom home which includes one ground floor bedroom and bathroom is tucked two miles off the A5 offering easy routes to Oswestry, Shrewsbury, the Midlands and North West. It has five bedrooms, an entrance hall, a kitchen/dining room, a sitting room, a study, a utility, a downstairs bathroom, a downstairs bedroom four, a sun lounge, bedroom one with a balcony, bedroom two with an en-suite, two further bedrooms, a family bathroom, ample storage, a cellar, a garage and a summer house.

Outside, there is a covered garage space for one car, a terrace leading from the snug and utility room and below is a garden, laid to lawn with a mature border, summer house and hidden sheds. Ruyton provides amenities normally associated with a village of this size; St John the Baptist C of E Primary School, a pub – The Talbot Inn, Leaman Garage and Ruyton XI Towns Village Store & Post Office and a florist. From the entrance hall is the beautifully fitted large kitchen/dining room which is full of natural light and leads through to the sun lounge which has panoramic views. A sitting room/snug is accessed both from the sun room and an adjacent study; the study also linking back to the entrance hall. A bedroom, bathroom and utility complete the ground floor accommodation. On the first floor there are three double bedrooms, a fifth bedroom and a family bathroom. While the largest bedroom has a balcony, with the same vista as the sun lounge, another benefits from its en-suite facilities.

Balfours agent, Charlie Giffard, said: "This is an unique and well-presented family home. Its location is convenient to a significant number of private and state schools, including a primary school and the well-respected Packwood Haugh which are both less than a mile."

KEY FEATURES

- Modern five-bedroomed residence
- Popular village
- Panoramic views
- Beautiful large kitchen
- One downstairs bedroom and bathroom

RUYTON XI TOWNS

£495,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Balfours Estate Agents

TEL: 01743 353511

EMAIL: sales@balfours.co.uk



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17th century home offers highly flexible accommodation

HOPE
£725,000

Little Hope, at Hope, Leighton near Welshpool is a 17th century cottage that has undergone a large extension.

Currently run as a bed and breakfast business, its flexible layout means it also provides for two co-habiting families, with separate quarters. In a design which flows with exceptional clarity and focus as a property with an option for two halves, it is for sale through Balfours at £725,000.

The main cottage comprises a porch, a large sitting room with an inglenook fireplace, woodburner and French doors. Adjacent is the library with glazing and views to two aspects and the study – a cosy hideaway. The morning room is the central point of the ground floor from which the stairs ascend to three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Beyond the morning room, the dining room is partially open plan to the kitchen, achieving a fabulous social space



with sleek contemporary fixtures in the kitchen. A second study, cloakroom/WC and utility complete the ground floor accommodation.

Duncan Scobie of Balfours, said: "Evelyn and Mike Gregory have nurtured Little Hope to create a fresh and spacious home, together with a highly successful bed and breakfast business. The latter is run as Long Mountain Bed and Breakfast, which has received many awards and certificates of excellence, from Visit Wales and Trip Adviser. The guest accommodation reflects this, it provides three spacious double bedrooms, one with an en-suite bathroom and the other two with en-suite shower rooms. A large guest dining/lounge spanning nearly six metres square and an independent guest kitchen allow the guest accommodation to be run totally separately; or for an extended family to enjoy."

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Stunning farmhouse enjoys superb views over valley

LLANRHAEDR
£400,000 [>>>](#)

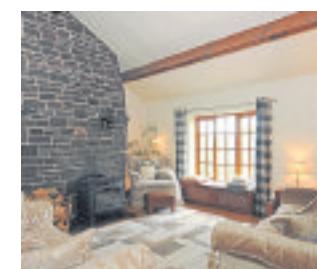
Clynog, Llanrhedadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £400,000.

The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhedadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains and near Pistyll Rhaeadr.

The property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.

Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 for more details about the home or to arrange a viewing.



Detached house with valley views comes with a large decked area

GARTH
£374,950 [<<<](#)

An individual detached house with valley views and first floor open plan living, Tyn-Y-Pistyll at Garth, Glyn Ceiriog, comes with a large timber decked area, landscaped gardens and woodland.

It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £374,950. Briefly the property comes with three bedrooms, a shower room and a bathroom.

A turning timber-built staircase rises up from the entrance hall to the upper level lobby with a tiled floor and external door to the rear.

Access leads through to the living area which has a multi-fuel stove fitted to the slate built fireplace, being dual aspect with a large picture window to the rear and concealed radiators. An open plan approach leads through to the dining/kitchen.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.



Four bedroom detached home has good sized gardens

TREFONEN
£469,000 [>>>](#)

A superb spacious four bedroom detached bungalow, Heulwen, Sandrock Lane, Trefonen, has a double garage and good sized gardens.

The property is located on a quiet lane with countryside views on the edge of Trefonen. The home is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £469,000. The well maintained detached bungalow is constructed of brick under a slate roof and has the benefit of oil fired central heating and double glazing. The home has a front entrance, reception hall, study, lounge and dining room. There is also a sun room, kitchen and utility as well as a garden room and inner hall. There are four bedrooms including an ensuite and there is a family bathroom. The property is approached by a sweeping driveway leading to the double garage with an up and over door.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



MOELFRE
£595,000

A perfect country retreat, away from the hustle and bustle of life, Y Dafarn at Moelfre, has four bedrooms and outstanding countryside views.

Overlooking Moelfre Lake, it is for sale through Town & Country at £595,000 with no chain. A highly desirable and attractive four bedroom detached family home, it sits in three acres of fields and gardens. Its accommodation briefly comprises a reception room, a living room, a shower room, a kitchen/breakfast room, a laundry, an orangery, a study, a master bedroom with an en-suite, three further bedrooms and a bathroom. To the outside there are beautiful gardens leading to the lake, tandem and double garages, ample off-road parking, outbuildings and a sun terrace. Its elegant entrance hallway has a stone fireplace (not working), part panelled walls, a beamed ceiling, a staircase off. The sitting room has a beamed ceiling, a brick fireplace with an oil fired stove and alcove cupboards. The shower



room is a fantastic luxury space with a tiled floor, wash hand basin on vanity unit, WC, walk-in shower with a Triton shower unit, a luxury ceiling mounted air body dryer, a vanity mirror and a beamed ceiling. The kitchen/breakfast room is the beautiful heart of the home. A farm-style kitchen open plan to the living room, it has wooden flooring, free-standing units, a ceramic sink with a mixer tap, a stainless steel oven, a microwave, an induction hob, under-floor heating, plumbing for a dishwasher and a window to the front. Stairs lead off to the first floor. There is access to an attic above the kitchen with a pull down ladder. This is boarded and has lighting. There is also a pantry with a ceramic sink, cold slabs, a beamed ceiling and old pub stone steps. The living room has wooden flooring, under-floor heating, two windows to the side and a storage room off.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



Detached Victorian period family home has large garden

OSWESTRY
£450,000 [<<<](#)

A detached Victorian period family home, Leeswood in Morda Road, Oswestry lies in a popular location within easy walking distance of the town centre.

Coming with a large garden including a former tennis court, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £450,000.

The accommodation briefly comprises a porch, entrance hallway, lounge, morning room, sun room, dining room, cloakroom/shower room, five bedrooms, two being en-suite, an impressive main bathroom, three spacious reception rooms, a hand made kitchen and utility room, a driveway, detached garage and gardens.

In more detail the entrance hallway has a herringbone woodblock floor, panelled walls and a traditional spindled staircase.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details and to arrange a viewing.

Act now and don't drone on about roof problems



Drones – the high tech way to see any roof problems

ACT now as the summer months are the best time to check your home and make some small improvements rather than in the cold of winter when there's an emergency.

Green energy expert Ron Fox has suggested four domestic chores to be carried out this month.

Firstly, householders should make sure there is no damp in the home caused by poor ventilation with tell-tale signs such as condensation on the windows, water on the sills or black mould in the bathroom. The problem may be blocked airbricks or gutters.

The sealant between the tiles in the shower, bath and basins may have become discoloured, mouldy or even leading to leaks. Mr Fox suggested taking out the old sealant and replacing with an antibacterial one.

"Once any damp has been sorted it may be worth putting the heating on a low, constant temperature to dry out the rooms," he said.

Secondly, it is worth checking the water stopcock. All it needs, said Mr Fox, is to turn it twice a year to stop it seizing up. Close it a half turn to the right and then a half turn to the left. A couple of minutes' work in the summer could save you many hundreds of pounds in the winter if a pipe bursts.

Thirdly, have your boiler serviced and get the water pressure checked now before the engineers go on holiday and don't leave it until the late autumn. Ensure the per-

son is qualified and on the Gas Safe Register, said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd on the University of Keele Science and Innovation Park.

Fourthly and finally check your roof and chimneys and the simplest and easiest way is to hire a drone and a thermal imaging camera.

"Many householders do not realise how technology can help them as it is much easier than hiring expensive scaffolding, or a cherry picker or sending a person up a ladder on to what could be an unsafe area," said Mr Fox.

Also some areas may be off-limits because of tight angles or out of sight in a valley between roofs.

"Once we have cleared a flight plan with the relevant authorities the technology allows us to pinpoint specific areas with far greater accuracy," he added.

"As there's no need for anyone to leave the ground so there is no difficulty with health and safety."

Mr Fox, who uses a drone, said it detects missing or defective insulation, air leaks and moisture in cavity wall insulation and roofs, excess water on flat roofs, inefficient seals round doors and windows, wear and tear in solar panels and reveal where energy is being lost from the building.

He said: "Inside a home the thermal imaging camera will show up the problems without having to cut into plasterboard or concrete or search through the attic or the roof."

Put the work in now for a rhododendron reward

ROSS UNDERWOOD



Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall

IN my last article I focused on Azaleas which make up a major part of the Rhododendron family.

However, I wouldn't want to do a disservice to the familiar evergreen rhododendrons by missing them out – especially now.

As we pass into June you might have thought that you could forget about all of those spring flowered shrubs that were such stalwarts in March, April and May. Surely they have done their duty of cheering us up during bad weather and can now fade gracefully into the background?

By and large you could be forgiven for making this assumption but a little tender loving care now and you will reap the rewards when next year rolls around. This is because these plants will produce next years flowers on wood that is grown and ripened over the coming summer.

Though we enjoy the flowers they are a difficult and expensive exercise in reproductive advertising for the plant and it will need to recoup a lot of lost energy if it is to set a sufficiently healthy crop of flower buds.

Scattering

Feeding, if not already started, should be done from now until the end of July. After July this should cease so that the plants have time to harden up the new growth, which can be floppy and tender, before winter.

I feed my plants in three main ways. Firstly, I apply a good scattering of a general purpose, organic fertiliser such as blood, fish and bone around the roots. This provides a steady release of nutrients over the long term. I prefer to stay away from pelleted chicken manure which can act a bit like rocket fuel and is useful where demand is more intense.

Secondly, I allow fallen leaves to collect and decompose around the plant. Rhododendrons and other calcifuge plants often take up more trace elements than they can use and store them in the foliage. These are the re-released when the leaves break down underneath the plant. I supplement this diet with plenty of leaf mould which improves the condition of the soil around the plants and helps to keep the roots moist during summer drought.

Thirdly I give all of my plants a copious liquid feed on a weekly basis. If you only have one or two plants in the garden or in pots then this can be done by drenching the roots from a watering can or hose with a feeder attached.

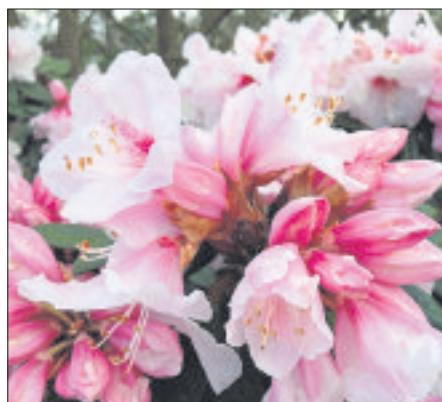
However, if you have a large number of plants then spraying on a foliage feed works



R. Wiseman is easy to grow and the pink flowers with a pale apricot centre are thoroughly charming, according to Ross



R. niveum has bright purple trusses which stand out wherever they are



R. yakushimanum has small tough leaves and bright flowers

wonders as the food is rapidly absorbed. Do this when there is no direct sunlight falling on the plants so that they won't scorch. Early morning, evening or a dull day are best.

I use concentrated liquid seaweed diluted with water which also does wonders for other plants. I have used it to pep up my yew hedging for example.

You can also buy calcified seaweed in granular form as a general soil improver and it has my own seal of approval. Scatter it on the surface or lightly fork it in and it

will help to improve the overall health and structure of the soil.

With these few tips in mind why not try a rhododendron in your own garden? The name means tree rose and some do grow to the size of small trees with interesting bark and foliage to match.

However, these monsters require more specialised growing conditions as well as large helpings of patience.

For the average garden there is a huge choice available. R. "Percy Wiseman" makes a good choice for most gardens as it

is easy to grow and the pink flowers with a pale apricot centre are thoroughly charming. By contrast R. niveum has bright purple trusses which stand out wherever they are. One of the easiest to grow and tolerant of even a neutral soil is the Japanese R. yakushimanum which has small tough leaves and bright pink or white flowers. There are even many dwarf cultivars that you can chose from if space is limited.

You don't have to be an expert. Just follow the simple steps above for a fantastic spring display.

How to make the Hanging Gardens of Summertime



PLANTING a hanging basket may be the ideal way to expand your garden or make the best use of the outside space that you have. It's also one of the easiest ways to connect your garden with your home.

If you plant your summer hanging basket at the end of May or beginning of July then it will thrive in a frost free environment producing a vibrant flourish of colour through to the autumn.

Choosing the right hanging basket really comes down to personal taste, but there are two basic styles to choose from – those with solid sides or the traditional wire types.

The benefit of using wire hanging baskets is that they allow you to grow some plants through the sides rather than everything coming from the top of the basket.

Whichever you choose, go for the biggest that you can – the more room you have for plants the better.

First, you need to prepare the compost and liner. For soil you can go for the easy option and pick a ready-made hanging basket compost or you can use a multi-purpose compost add a handful of perlite to improve drainage and aeration and add hydration crystals to help the soil retain water. Slow-release fertiliser granules can also be mixed in to feed the plants.

An open wire basket needs a liner to prevent compost falling through. Traditionally, moss is used and gives a natural feel, but other linings are just as good such as coconut fibre.

Using a bucket or empty pot to steady the basket while you work, place moss around the bottom half, and then add newspaper as a barrier between the moss and compost. This will stop the soil from falling out initially, and as the paper rots the roots will grow through to hold the earth in place. Fill this bottom half with soil.

Centrepiece

Next, insert the trailing plants by making holes 50mm (2in) apart at this level and poke the roots of the plants such as lobelias or trailing ivy through the sides so they lie on top of the compost. Add more compost and trailing plants, positioning them between those already planted below.

Now plant the top of the basket. A dramatic centrepiece is a must-have – something like an upright fuchsia or a geranium will give you a strong and vibrant focal point.

Surround that with trailing plants like petunias or ivy-leaved geraniums, and one or two busy lizzies. Remember to leave a 30mm (1.5in) gap from the soil to the top of the basket to help it hold water.

Finally hang the basket. Water thoroughly as hydration is key – hanging baskets will dry out very quickly without regular – sometimes daily – watering.

Fit the chain in place and suspend the basket on a secure, supporting bracket.

Take time to rotate the basket so that its best side faces outwards.

If hanging baskets are just part of your outside space then here are some gardening tips for this month from the Royal Horticultural Society:

- Plant out seedlings and young plants
- Watering and weeding
- Start spraying roses to stop black spot and mildew
- Fast growing hedges will need a trim
- Plant hanging baskets and containers
- Plant salad leaves seeds
- Tie up climbers
- Feed spring bulbs for next year
- Plant out tomatoes
- Mow the lawn

Sara Milne
The Potted Garden

Dream car prices are being driven sky high



The flowing lines of the £28m Ferrari 250 GTO

The most expensive modern-day luxury cars are still relatively cheap in comparison to classics that collectors are prepared to spend a fortune on

At a cool £210,000, the new McLaren 720S supercar is way out of the price range for most of us.

But even the costliest modern-day dream cars are relatively cheap in comparison to some of the classic cars collectors are prepared to fork out on.

While a 2018 plate Ferrari 488 can be snapped up for around £180,000, a 250 GTO built 56 years ago recently fetched more than £28 million.

In recent years, classic cars have soared in value as more people are looking to cash in on collectors' models as an alternative to traditional investments.

There is big debate about what constitutes a classic car, with some arguing that it is based on age, while others say the model is more important.

HM Revenue & Customs classifies anything more than 15 years old that is worth more than £15,000 as classic.

Pontus Sifverstolpe, one of the founders of Barnebys auction house, said more and more people are catching onto the benefits of owning a classic.

"Classic cars are timeless and continue to attract new generations of passionate collectors," he said.

"True collection pieces, either they are legendary race winners or icons in their brand's history, still have a bright future at auctions ahead."

To mark our new-found love of the classics, here's the 10 most expensive classic cars sold at auction houses around the world.

1. Ferrari 250 GTO, 1962 – sold for £38,115,000 (£28.3m) in 2014.

This was the masterpiece of the 'Maranello Rosso' collection and formerly belonged to Fabrizio Violati, who saved it from the scrap heap when he bought it for \$4,000. It is considered 'the daddy of classic cars and holds the world record for a sale in a public auction house.'

2. Ferrari 335 Sport Scaglietti, 1957 – sold for £35,711,359 (£26.4m) in 2016.

The car was launched in 1957 and driven by legends like Stirling Moss, Wolfgang von Trips and Maurice Trintignant. It was part of a collection of Pierre Bardon, of racing circuit Mas du Clos.

3. Mercedes-Benz W196, 1954 – sold for \$29,650,095 (£22.1m) in 2013.

The 'Silver Arrow' was introduced to competition the day before the Formula 1 German Grand Prix in 1954.

It won thanks to some nifty driving from Argentinian Juan Manuel Fangio, who also guided it to victory in the Switzerland in the same year.

4. Ferrari 290 MM par Scaglietti, 1956 – sold for \$28,050,000 (£20.1m) in 2015.

This was Ferrari's attempt to get back in the game in the wake of the rise of Maserati and Mercedes-Benz.

It worked, as the car won the 1956 Mille Miglia. Only four of them were ever made.

5. Ferrari 275 GTB 4/S N.A.R.T. Spider, 1967 – sold for \$27,500,000 (£20.5m) in 2013.

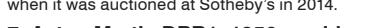
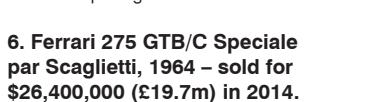
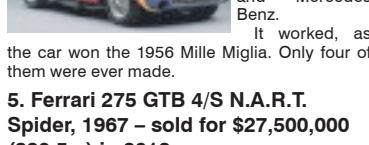
This was the most expensive car in the world when it sold at auction in 2013.

It was bought brand new in North Carolina by Eddie Smith Sr in 1968, and stayed within the family until its first appearance on the market, in 2013. It is part of a series comprising ten editions.

6. Ferrari 275 GTB/C Speciale par Scaglietti, 1964 – sold for \$26,400,000 (£19.7m) in 2014.

A classic two-seater 'Berlinetta' and a first edition from a series of only three. With the other two cars in the series cherished by private collectors, this was considered extremely rare and led to a scramble when it was auctioned at Sotheby's in 2014.

7. Aston Martin DBR1, 1956 – sold



for \$22,555,000 (£16.8m) in 2017.

This first edition from a series of five Aston Martin DBR1s was created in 1956 and was described by Sotheby's as one of the most important prototypes in the brand's history.

It won the 1,000km Nürburgring in 1959 and now holds the record price for an Aston Martin sold at auction.

8. Jaguar D-Type, 1955 – sold for \$21,780,000 (£16.3m) in 2016.

Built in 1955, this D-Type by Jaguar was one of just 54 made. It was the only one representing the famous English marque within the top ten most expensive cars in the world at 8th position.

This masterpiece won the legendary Le Mans 24 Hour race in 1956.

9. Alfa Romeo 8C 2900B Lungo Spider, 1939 – sold for \$19,800,000 (£14.8m) in 2016.

The Alfa Romeo 8C 2900B Lungo Spider designed by Touring is the oldest car holding a place in this top ten of world record prices.

Dating from 1939, the Italian car's design stemmed from the 1920s.

It evolved into a proper racing car. The 8C 2900B wasn't primarily made for competition, but it represents the best model of a sports car available at the time.

10. Ferrari 250 GT SWB California Spider, 1961 – sold for \$18,500,000 (£13.8m) in 2015.

This 1961 beauty was one of only 56 ever made by the Italian firm.

It has never been restored and once belonged to the French cinema icon Alain Delon.

Has state lost the battle over cannabis use?



Lord Hague says anyone who believes cannabis can be driven from the streets is 'deluded'

FORMER Conservative leader William Hague was issued with a firm rebuke from his own Government after calling for cannabis to be legalised.

The Home Office issued a flat rejection of Lord Hague's arguments for the legalisation of cannabis.

In a blog post titled Rebuttal, the department wrote: "The Home Office has been clear that there is strong scientific and medical evidence that cannabis is a harmful drug which can be detrimental to people's mental and physical health.

"The Government has no intention of reviewing the classification of cannabis under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and it will remain a Class B drug.

"Any debate within government about the medicinal and therapeutic benefits of



The Home Office said cannabis was harmful

cannabis-based medicines does not extend to any review regarding the classification of cannabis and the penalties for the illicit possession, cultivation and trafficking of cannabis will remain the same."

Lord Hague, who lives in Cyfronydd Hall, near Llanfair Caereinion, with his wife Ffion, joined those who have urged a change of approach over the narcotic.

Writing an open letter, he said those who believe the drug can be "driven off the streets and out of people's lives by the state is nothing short of deluded".

His comments came after Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt suggested "a different way" was needed following widespread outrage over the confiscation from mother Charlotte Caldwell of cannabis oil supplies which she brought from Canada for her 12-year-old son Billy, who has acute epilepsy.

After Billy was rushed to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in a critical condition, having suffered multiple seizures, Home Secretary Sajid Javid granted a 20-

day emergency licence allowing use of the oil.

Later, fellow Tory Crispin Blunt, who chairs the All-Parliamentary Group for Drug Policy Reform, urged the Home Office to "clear out of the way" and let the Department of Health take control of policy on medical cannabis.

The Government announced a new expert panel of clinicians would be established to give swift advice on the prescription of cannabis-based medicines to individual patients.

But the Prime Minister suggested that the Government would look only into the operation of the current system of licences for use in individual cases, rather than reviewing the law more widely.

The Home Office said the Government had no intention of reviewing the drug's classification.

Lord Hague, who led the party from 1997 to 2001 and was foreign secretary under David Cameron from 2010 to 2014, called for the party to rethink policy, saying the war against the drug had been lost.

He wrote: "Everyone sitting in a Whitehall conference room needs to recognise that, out there, cannabis is ubiquitous, and issuing orders to the police to defeat its use is about as up-to-date and relevant as asking the Army to recover the Empire."

"This battle is effectively over."

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Vince Cable backed calls for reform, saying decriminalising cannabis would be a "sensible step for the country to take".

The second step would be to look at the various experiences of legalisation to make absolutely sure that we do not produce an epidemic, that we actually control use very considerably," he said.

"The objective ... is to prevent a situation where large amounts of this drug are in circulation in a very damaging form which is poisoning large numbers of young people and resulting in psychological damage."

Billy was discharged from hospital, but now Ms Caldwell, 50, from Co Tyrone, wants an urgent review of the law on the substance, which is banned in the UK despite being available in many other countries.

Ms Caldwell credits cannabis oil with keeping the boy's seizures at bay, saying he was seizure-free for more than 300 days while using it.

A spokeswoman for the Home Office said: "The Government is clear – we must prevent drug use in our communities and help those dependent on drugs to recover, while ensuring our drugs laws are enforced."

LGBT relationships to be taught in Welsh schools

CHILDREN will be taught about LGBT relationships as part of the school curriculum for the first time.

Currently, sex education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum throughout Wales, however it is down to the schools to decide their approach and some don't stretch beyond biological aspects of human relationships.

But the new part of the curriculum, which will come into place in 2022, is aimed to give all children a broader understanding of sexuality that is fully inclusive of LGBTQI+ learners

and includes wider issues such as consent, domestic abuse and respecting diversity.

The new part of the curriculum was announced by education secretary and Brecon and Radnorshire AM Kirsty Williams and comes 30 years after the introduction of Section 28 which banned the promotion of homosexuality in schools. She said: "The days of traditional sex education are long gone, the world has moved on and our curriculum must move with it.

"Sex should never be taught in isolation for the simple reason that it is about so much more

than just sex, it's also about relationships, rights and respect and that must go hand in hand with a much broader understanding of sexuality. Anything less does a disservice to our learners and teachers.

"By creating Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) as a statutory area of study in our new curriculum for Wales, we will support our young people to develop healthy relationships, maintain good mental health and keep physically and sexually safe.

"Of course, 30 years on from the introduction

of Section 28, we will also ensure that RSE is fully inclusive of all genders and sexualities and meets the needs of LGBTQI+ learners."

To kick start the process, the education secretary has announced £200,000 will be made available so schools can begin the process of identifying professional learning needs, and a further £50,000 has been awarded to Welsh Women's Aid to develop resources and training for schools.

The news was welcomed by charity Stonewall Cymru, which campaigns for sexual equality.

£11,000 raised for church



Church warden Kath Davies-Morgan at St Mary's Church, Llwydiarth

A CHURCH has re-opened after its congregation and locals rallied around to raise £11,000 to make safety improvements.

In July last year, visiting clergy to St Mary's Church in Llwydiarth, near Lake Vyrnwy, noticed an unsafe stained glass window and it was ruled the church would have to close on health and safety grounds.

It was also found that urgent electrical work was needed and the church was shut leaving the small congregation with nowhere to go.

However the community rallied around with services taking place in the village hall and one even being conducted in someone's house.

Fundraisers were held along with various other events, raising £11,000 to help put protection on the windows and making them safe.

The church was re-opened with a two-day flower festival, a grand concert from Penybontfawr Male Voice Choir and a Songs of

Praise event. Kath Davies-Morgan, church warden and secretary who runs the village shop, heaped praise on villagers for their support in raising the money to keep the church going. She said: "It is fantastic that a village of this size has been able to raise that money.

"If we wanted to raise the money to replace the actual windows it would have cost around £30,000.

"But a local man Brian Jones did the work and we managed to raise the money through various events, and it has just shown what real community spirit we have here."

Like all small parishes around Mid Wales, Llwydiarth has suffered with a dwindling congregation in recent years with an average of just eight people now attending services.

It is a continuous battle to raise funds to keep the church going, but one the locals are determined to take on.

Extra trains are coming – but in four years

TRAIN passengers in Shropshire have been promised extra rail services – but not for another four years.

The new Wales and Borders franchise has revealed its plans after taking over from Arriva Trains Wales.

The new operator of the rail services, Keolis-Amey, has promised to spend £800 million increasing capacity by two thirds.

Improvements include introducing seven extra train services from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth as well as a new Liverpool to Cardiff service via Wrexham General and Shrewsbury.

But the new services will not come into operation until 2022.

France's Keolis and Spanish-owned Amey have paid £5 billion to take over services currently run by Arriva Trains Wales.

The routes through Shropshire include the Shrewsbury to Chester, Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth and Cardiff to Shrewsbury lines. Services also connect the county to Wolverhampton and Birmingham International, via Telford.

KeolisAmey said 95 per cent of journeys will be on the new trains within five years.

A station will also open at Bow Street near Aberystwyth in March 2020. And it also announced four new Cardiff light rail stations as part of the South Wales Metro.

An extra 600 staff will also be recruited, the company said.

The French-Spanish joint venture will take over operations from Arriva Trains Wales for the next 15 years from October.

New trains and light rail cars will be in red and black livery – and carry Transport for Wales (TfW)

By Business Editor James Pugh

branding, not company logos. First Minister Carwyn Jones called it a "landmark moment in the future development of Wales".

"People said they wanted affordable fares and newer, cleaner trains and we have worked hard to ensure this is reflected in what we are launching," he said.

Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns added: "It is important that future investment provides visible and practical improvements to the rail travel experience on a franchise with the potential to grow transport links between England and Wales."

Alastair Gordon, chief executive of Keolis UK, said: "While the changes we need to make will take time, we are creating a platform for future economic growth and prosperity that will benefit all of Wales now and for generations to come.

"In five years' time, the railway will be unrecognisable from what it is today."

Andy Milner, Amey's chief executive, said: "This is a great opportunity for us to use our joint capabilities to deliver a first-rate service for Wales and its communities. As well as creating new jobs and apprenticeship opportunities, we will be focused on upgrading the existing infrastructure and introducing new trains to significantly improve the passenger experience."

"We are looking forward to working with Transport for Wales in a partnership which will see the full replacement of all trains, and major upgrades."

"We are also looking forward to working with the very proud and dedicated men and women running the railway in Wales today, who will join us on this exciting journey."

Almost 200 sex offences are reported in bars in five years

THERE have been almost 200 sex offences in licensed premises in the region in the last five years, it has been revealed.

Between 2013 and 2018 there have been 190 sex offences in the West Mercia Police force area, figures from a Freedom of Information request have shown.

But police say the figures show that the number of crimes appear to be reducing year-on-year, a trend described as "encouraging". The force also praised land-

lords for their co-operation in dealing with the issue.

Last financial year there were 39 sex offences in licensed premises, a reduction from 41 the year before and 51 in 2015-16. Between April 1 last year and March 31 this year there were 27 reports of women being sexually assaulted, and two reports of men being sexually assaulted.

There were also three reports of rape in licensed premises and three reports of attempted rape.

Voyeurism in a licensed premises was reported to police once last year.

Between 2013-14 there were 30 reports of sexual offences, including causing or inciting prostitution, four reports of exposure and 22 reports of females being sexually assaulted.

The figures show that in the last five years, 124 suspects have been identified for the 190 sex offences reported to have taken place in licensed premises.

Mental health services for children 'improving'

SERVICES for children and teenagers suffering with mental health problems in Shropshire are improving but are still not perfect, it has been found.

Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin CCGs first flagged up issues about how the service was being delivered by provider, South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, in November last year.

In April, it was also agreed that due to levels of concern regarding the service that monthly updates would be discussed to ensure sufficient progress is being made.

Also in April, around 50 people turned out in Shrewsbury to protest about the state of mental health services for youngsters,

after it was revealed there aren't enough psychiatrists to serve the area.

In recent months a number of improvements have been put in place, with a new consultant taking up a post in July and two other vacancies being filled by locums.

Staffing numbers have been an issue with the service and Shropshire CCG chair Dr Julian Povey said: "Things are better now than they were. There have been improvements made to the service, but it isn't perfect."

"We are making it easier for people to access the care they need, and to get to the right place.

"We are trying to get things right and to improve them."

"When the service was split with SSFT things were lost somehow and we are told things are now being put in place.

"If people are still having problems accessing the right care then they can get in touch with the CCG."

Papers which were discussed at a meeting of the CCG state that all rejected referrals are being reviewed and the quality team is meeting with SSFT to seek information on referrals it has refused.

Other improvements were highlighted, such as the eating disorder service in Staffordshire is now medically supporting the Shropshire eating disorder service, ensuring there is medical cover.

Extra help now available for victims of crime²⁷

A SERVICE dedicated to guiding and supporting victims and witnesses of crime and anti-social behaviour is now offering extra support in the four counties it serves.

New divisional support workers for Goleudy – which is Welsh for lighthouse – are based at Dyfed-Powys police stations in Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys.

It's anticipated their introduction will encourage stronger links with communities, police officers and partner agencies, with the goal of ensuring victims and witnesses that use Goleudy are happy with the service they receive.

Nichola Rance, service manager, said: "Goleudy will be offering an enhanced service to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour with the introduction of divisional support officers.

"They will work closely with police officers to ensure that victims feel listened to, are updated and, most importantly, supported."

Goleudy helped victims of the Manchester bombing as well as being involved during cybercrime and fraud cases.

More information is available at the website www.goleudystictimandwitnessservice.org.uk or phone 0300 123 2996. Phone lines are open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm.

Transport to see no more 'quick fixes'

TRANSPORT bosses have insisted they no longer want to use a quick "sticky plaster approach" when it comes to dealing with congested motorways.

Leading business figures met to discuss future plans for the region's roads after it was revealed transport group Midlands Connect is considering building a new 40-mile motorway connecting Worcestershire to Shropshire.

It is an idea that has been met with controversy by many – especially environmental groups who claim the motorway would plough straight through greenbelt countryside.

Director of Midlands Connect Maria Machancoses said issues concerning the region's roads cannot be ignored for much longer.

Ms Machancoses said: "One third of the national freight goes through the Midlands so we need to look at this in a much more balanced, comprehensive way."

"We need to do far more work, more analysis, and look at wider economic benefits and environment benefits. This is all about giving a clear message, a clear vision to the world out there that we can no longer use a sticky plaster approach to resolving the problems of our motorways and congestion."

Airport expansion 'will boost firms'

BUSINESSES in Shropshire have everything to gain from the expansion of Heathrow Airport, it has been claimed.

Richard Sheehan, chief executive of the Shropshire Chamber of Commerce, believes it could improve connectivity with the rest of the world, supporting exports, trade and job opportunities.

It comes after ministers described their backing for a new runway at the airport as a "historic moment" for the UK.

The cabinet signed off the plans after they were approved by the Government's economic sub-committee, which is chaired by Prime Minister Theresa May.

Mr Sheehan said: "I think in principle it is a very good thing and really important for the infrastructure in the UK."

"It will enable the country to reach out around the world. Especially with Brexit coming up, it makes reaching out to countries outside of Europe really critical."

"Businesses are exploring ways of how they can do business beyond Europe with new customers and opportunities."

"The expansion of the country's premier airport will be vital for the connectivity of goods and people."

"It is important that other airports such as Birmingham and Manchester feed into the hub."

Warning to firms over World Cup AWOL risk

WITH the FIFA World Cup tournament now in full swing, an employment lawyer has warned businesses in Shropshire and Mid Wales that they must prepare for staff going AWOL during the month-long football showpiece.

The alert has come from employment law specialist Darryll Thomas who says the tournament could prove a headache for employers, especially those who employ shift workers and weekend staff.

Mr Thomas, a partner in the employment and HR services division at law firm mfg Solicitors, is urging firms to side-step potential HR issues and prepare now to reduce the risks of workers calling in sick during the Russian-hosted tournament which runs to July 16.

He said: "The World Cup is one of the world's biggest and most anticipated sporting events which brings out everyone's love for football.

"However, while it's going to be exciting, business has to carry on as normal.

"England are the only home nation taking part in Russia.

"While their matches aren't scheduled during normal business hours, it could affect those employers who operate shift rotas or rely on weekend staff – with the added risk that some people could potentially phone in sick the morning after the game.

"We also shouldn't forget there are many matches involving other nations which as a multi-cultural country, will see employees from other countries wanting to watch their heroes in action.

"The best approach for employers is to be understanding and work with their staff, making sure that leave requests can be accommodated where possible and that they aren't scared to do things differently. For example, I've spoken to some employers who have started to install screens into meeting rooms and offices to make sure people don't miss any of the action. Some are also rearranging conferences or merging the football into their events.

"We saw during the London Olympics, Euro 2016 and the 2015 Rugby World Cup that some staff did go AWOL to watch the live action so it's all about businesses and HR teams looking and planning ahead, reminding everyone of their policies and overall, what is expected of them."

Hollis backs rugby event for youngsters

OSWESTRY firm Hollis Technology joined forces with Orchard Hill College & Academy Trust and the Harlequins Foundation to sponsor the #SendusRugby tournament at the Twickenham Stoop.

The event allowed 150 young people with learning difficulties from over 15 special secondary schools across Surrey to take part in the Foundation's first-ever Disability Rugby Festival for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) students at Harlequins' home ground.

During the day, coaches from the RFU and Harlequins Foundation introduced pupils to mixed ability touch rugby before putting them through their paces for a fun rugby festival in the afternoon.

Harlequins Foundation co-ordinator and disability rugby lead, Matthew Williams, said: "For us mixed-ability rugby is the perfect way to enable more young people with learning difficulties to experience our sport. Thanks to Project Rugby we have been able to support both young people and adults into the sport, and witness at first hand the incredible social impact it can have for them and their local community."

Garry Thompson, managing director of Hollis Technology, presented 200 medals and three trophies to the worthy winners. He commented: "Hollis Technology was delighted to sponsor this important event which focused on children's development and happiness in such a fun and inclusive way. As a partly sighted adult I was delighted to meet the technical team at Orchard Hill who are obviously passionate and clearly fully focused on developing new technology to enhance these children's lives. I couldn't think of anything better for Hollis to support."

Consultancy strengthens its team



New starters at apT Group from left: Mark Latham, Hayley Abel, Ian Lowe, Daniel Simms, Nicola Corfield, Laurence David, Nicholas McGurk, Stephen Quinn, Penny McKnight.

A PUBLIC sector development consultancy has strengthened its team with a string of new appointments.

Telford-based apT – the Midlands' first public sector commercial planning, development and environmental consultancy – has appointed a raft of new specialists to add more expertise to its team.

The consultancy, part of Telford & Wrekin Council, said the appointments underline its commitment to offering industry-leading support to housing developers, commercial developers, businesses and individual home owners. New appointments include heritage specialist Penny McKnight, ecologist and green infrastructure

specialists Laurence David and Mark Latham; and assistant building control surveyor Nicola Corfield.

Also joining the team are senior highways project engineer Nick McGurk, highways engineer Callum Bebb, assistant highways engineer Stephen Quinn and site engineers Daniel Simms and Hayley Abel.

The team is also celebrating the promotions of Ian Lowe, who takes the role as a principal planner, and Martha Fletcher as a planner.

Valerie Hulme, group manager for apT, said: "We are delighted to welcome such a wide range of talent and expertise to the apT team. These new appointments further strengthen our

ability to offer the best-possible service to our clients, bringing a vast range of specialist knowledge and expertise together under one roof.

"Clients know that when they come to us for their development and planning support we can offer them a tailored solution which uses this in-house knowledge to speed up the process and account for every potential hurdle, delivering safe and sustainable sites."

apT's services include professional help for planning, both preparing and submitting planning applications, highway design, audits and adoptions, and offer safe construction through building regulations.

20k grant helps seal the deal for new plant

BUSINESS LATEST

By James Pugh

THE UK's largest envelope manufacturer is predicting an increase in productivity and profit following a £20,000 grant that has allowed it to invest in new machinery for its Shropshire plant.

The Mail Solutions Group has converted an existing production line into one capable of addressing the evolving direct mail market, thanks to a total £70,000 investment.

It was supported in its grant application by the Marches Growth Hub, the business support service developed by the Marches LEP. The funding was awarded from the European Regional Development Fund's Business Growth Programme, available to businesses across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

The new £70,000 production line means the firm, which has a base in Halesfield in Telford, should increase its sales to the direct mail market by at least two per cent, leading to a rise in annual operating profit of £120,000.

Dominant

The Mail Solutions Group is the largest envelope manufacturer in the UK, with additional sites in Llangollen, Blackburn and Romford, and a yearly turnover of £30 million. It also holds dominant positions in the markets for direct mail base stationery and tickets, which are made at its factory in Corby.

The Business Growth Programme is managed by Birmingham City Council and offers grants of between £20,000 and £167,000 for small and medium-sized businesses through a range of funding schemes designed to help them grow and target new markets.

Karl Lee, director at Mail Solutions, said: "Direct mail volumes are starting to recover following a battle with digital marketing over the past 10 years or so.

"Our customers see that email marketing campaigns in isolation simply don't work, and are returning to traditional forms of communication through the post in order to get their marketing messages across in a cost effective manner. The grant has enabled us to capitalise on this trend and adapt our production line accordingly so we can capture a larger share of this market."



Karl Lee, director at Mail Solutions, which is based in Halesfield in Telford

Entanet connects with county charity to raise funds



Trainee critical care paramedic Will Meadows, Rob Tickle, Steven Wood, captain Chris Levey, David Edwards, Kate Turner and critical care paramedic Greg Ambler

SHROPSHIRE-BASED communications network provider Entanet has committed to raising funds for the Midlands Air Ambulance after the company's 116 employees voted to make it their nominated local charity.

The vote came after 13 company volunteers formed a new corporate social responsibility committee, whose purpose is to develop, run and coordinate the activities of Entanet throughout the year.

Steven Wood, chair of Entanet's CSR committee, said: "We're really excited about the announcement of Entanet's nominated charities and we're looking forward to working with colleagues on a number of activities to support these great causes, as well as a range of other important CSR initiatives."

In 2017 Telford-based Entanet raised over £7,000 for a variety of charities including Birmingham Children's Hospital, Severn Hospice and SANDS, by running a number of internal and external events.

Entanet is already well known for its charitable activities and our staff are passionate about making a posi-

tive difference in the community", said Elsa Chen, CEO of Entanet. "The introduction of the new CSR committee provides an even stronger focus and direction for these activities."

Jon Cottrell, corporate partnership executive for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, said: "We're so thankful to Entanet staff for voting Midlands Air Ambulance Charity to be their local charity of choice. Having no government or National Lottery funding means that we rely completely on generous donations from businesses such as Entanet, as well as the general public. Each Midlands Air Ambulance charity mission costs on average £2,500."

The new magazine for Shropshire



ANYONE FOR TENNIS: The Shifnal lad who is getting ready for Centre Court

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Should we replace Shrewsbury's most iconic landmark?

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Issue 18...



NEWS

COURT MARSHALL

Meet the Shifnal line judge who will be lining up alongside the stars of the tennis world for the Wimbledon Championships.

OUTDOORS

A recommendation for a glorious walk in the countryside around Bridgnorth this weekend.

EVENTS

Some of the greatest names in modern art will be among those on show at an exhibition which begins in Shrewsbury this weekend.

FOOD

Irresistible doughnuts – where to buy them and how to make your own.



REVIEWS

The best places to eat, the picks of what's on television, films heading to Shropshire cinemas, and another great day out come under the microscope.

**PLUS - LOCAL NEWS | SPORT
FORESTS | ALTERNATIVE SPORTS
ROADIES | DAN NIGHTINGALE
LORD HILL'S COLUMN | PUZZLES
PG WODEHOUSE | PARKING
SHAKESPEARE IN SPACE | FASHION**

ON SALE FRIDAY

June 30



Saturday Kitchen Live

10am

Andi Oliver is joined by guest Sanjeev Bhaskar and chefs Wolfgang Puck and Ryan and Liam Simpson-Trotman. Olly Smith picks the ideal wine to accompany the dishes made on the show.



The World's Most Extraordinary Homes

4.25pm

Piers Taylor and Caroline Quentin head to Israel, discovering homes designed to combat the heat and inspired by rich cultural and historical traditions.



Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua

9pm

Bear Grylls teaches the boxer some alternative survival skills, taking him to the notorious Commando Ridge in Cornwall.



Escape to the Chateau: DIY

4.45pm

Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree give Jonny a crash course in the dos and don'ts of chateau shopping before he and his wife start the search for their dream place in France.



Carpenters: Their Greatest Hits

9pm

Performances and official music videos of 16 songs. Narrator Ken Bruce also offers interesting facts regarding Richard and Karen's act.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast.
10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. Andi Oliver is joined by guest Sanjeev Bhaskar and chefs Wolfgang Puck and Ryan and Liam Simpson-Trotman. Olly Smith picks the ideal wine to accompany the dishes made on the show.
11.30 Simply Nigella. (R)
12.00 Bargain Hunt. Philip Serrell and Charles Hanson offer advice to two teams as they search for collectibles in Exeter, Devon. Host Tim Wonnacott takes time out to visit Antony House in Cornwall. (R)
1.00 BBC News: Weather.
1.15 Wanted Down Under. Having moved to the UK from Australia almost 50 years ago, Simon MacLean longs to return, and hopes a trial week in Perth will persuade fiancée Jane. (R)
2.00 Escape to the Country. Finding a rural home in Nottinghamshire. (R)
2.30 Garden Rescue. Advice for a garden owner who loves rocks, but hates decking. (R)
3.15 Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore uncovers hidden gems at a recycling centre in Witney, Surrey, including a rusty petrol can and an old chest of drawers. (R)
4.15 FILM: Monsters vs Aliens (2009). A giant woman joins a team of strange creatures fighting to save the world from an alien invasion. Animated sci-fi comedy, featuring the voices of Reese Witherspoon and Hugh Laurie.
5.40 Celebrity Mastermind. With Michelle Ackley, Joe Fattorini, Danny Clarke and John Finnemore. (R)
6.10 BBC News.
6.20 Midlands Today: Weather.
6.30 Pointless Celebrities. Tim Rice, Don Black, Connie Fisher, Siobhan Dillon, Claire Sweeney, Nigel Planer, Cory English and Phillip Jupitus take part in a musical theatre-themed edition of the quiz show. (R)
7.20 Who Dares Wins. Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.00 Inspector George Gently. The detective puts his career on the line when he reopens the case of a woman convicted of killing her husband, hoping to uncover a long-buried miscarriage of justice. (R)
9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Trevor has decided to work for a mission project in Africa, so Agnes resolves to give him an unforgettable send-off, while Cathy's family counselling session descends into chaos. (R)
10.00 BBC News: National Lottery Update.
10.20 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.
11.05 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.
12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.50 BBC News.

In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:
2.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) 5.10 Money for Nothing (S, R) 6.10 News (S) 6.20 Local News; Weather (S) 6.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) 9.15 Mrs Brown's Boys (S, R) 9.45 News; Weather (S) 10.05 Little Fockers (2010) (S) 11.35 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay (S) 1.20 BBC News (S)

BBC2

6.15 Richard Osman's House of Games. Chizzy Akudolu, Charlie Higson, Kate Williams and Tom Allen compete. (R)
6.45 Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. The eight finalists are put through their paces. Last in the series.
7.15 Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. A motorcycle stunt team, a hula-hooper and a poodle aim for the record books.
7.45 The Dengineers. A boy with sensory processing disorder seeks a calm, quiet den in which to relax. (R)
8.15 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. Naomi discovers that the beautiful sandy beaches of Borneo are made of fish poo. (R)
8.45 Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. Steve is on a quest to track down the deadliest of all dinosaur defenders. (R)
9.15 Natural Born Winners. The athletes train at horseback archery in Japan. Last in the series. (R)
10.15 Homes Under the Hammer. Properties about to be auctioned. (R)
11.15 Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. The group prepare to host a traditional Italian wedding. (R)
12.15 Tennis: Eastbourne. The Nature Valley International final.
3.00 Coast. Nick Crane explores the Riddle of the Tides. (R)
3.25 Natural World: Madagascar, Lemurs and Spies. The threats facing the rare silky sifaka lemurs. (R)
4.25 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. Piers Taylor and Caroline Quentin explore four homes in Israel. Last in the series. (R)
5.25 The World Cup: Heroes of '66. Profile of the World Cup-winning squad. (R)
6.00 Managing England: The Impossible Job. A look at the history of the role of England football manager, featuring interviews with current boss Gareth Southgate and former incumbents including Sven-Goran Eriksson. (R)
7.00 Coastal Path. Explorer Paul Rose takes in the north Cornish coast, touring Tintagel Castle, experiencing the hustle and bustle of Padstow's 'Obby 'Oss festival, and visiting Stives. (R)
7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon try to capture three German airmen who have landed in a lake after bailing out and intend to stay in their dinghy until nightfall. (R)
8.00 The NHS: To Provide All People. A film poem charting a day in the life of a regional hospital. Written by Owen Sheers to mark the birth of the NHS 70 years ago and performed by a stellar cast of acting talent.
9.00 Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars. Documentary profiling the blues guitarist, touching on his battles with drugs and alcohol and why his desire to grow his artistic voice led him to quit a stream of successful bands.
11.05 FILM: Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll (2010). Biopic of influential punk singer Ian Dury, focusing on the impact his rise to fame and volatile personality had on his relationship with his son. With Andy Serkis and Bill Milner.
12.55 FILM: Mea Culpa (2014). Crime thriller, starring Vincent Lindon. This Is BBC2.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids **6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids** 6.35 Dino Dana **6.50 Mission Employable** 6.55 The Oddbods Show **7.05 Ninjago: Tournament of Elements** 7.30 The Haunted Hathaways **7.55 Drop Dead Weird**
8.25 ITV News.
8.30 Zoe Ball on Saturday. With guests Peter Andre, Matt Richardson and Ade Adidepe.
9.25 James Martin's American Adventure. The chef goes on a culinary road trip around the United States. (R)
9.55 Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell revisit three more memorable stories, including a woman who was reunited with her birth mother in Australia. Last in the series.
10.55 The Best of the Voice Worldwide. Worldwide editions of the singing competition.
11.50 ITV News and Weather.
12.00 ITV Racing: Live from Newcastle. Oli Bell presents coverage of two meetings. From Newcastle, races start at 12.20, 12.55, 1.30 and 2.05. From Newmarket, at 1.10 and 1.45.
2.30 Countrywise. Liz Bonnin finds out about the health benefits of goat's milk. (R)
3.00 Tenable. London Underground workers answer questions about top 10 lists, then try to score a perfect 10 in the final round. (R)
4.00 Celebrity Tipping Point. With Julian Clary, Sara Cox and Alan Halsall. (R)
5.00 The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
6.00 ITV News and Weather.
6.15 FILM: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012). A gifted teenager gains superhuman powers while investigating his dead parents' past. Comic-book adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone.
9.00 Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua. Bear Grylls teaches the boxer some alternative survival skills, taking him to the notorious Commando Ridge in Cornwall, and providing nutrition in the form of a rotted sheep's leg. (R)
10.00 ITV News and Weather.
10.15 FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. Highlights of the opening two last-16 fixtures, as the winners of Group C took on the runners-up from Group D, and the winners of Group A faced the second-placed team in Group B.
11.15 FILM: Rocky IV (1985). The Italian Stallion steps into the ring against a seemingly invincible Russian boxer who caused the death of his friend. Drama, starring Sylvester Stallone.
1.00 Jackpot247.
3.00 Mr Selfridge.
3.50 ITV Nightscreen.
In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:
2.30 FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) 5.15 Catchphrase (S, R) 6.00 News; Weather (S) 6.15 Local News; Weather (S) 6.30 FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) 9.15 Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua (S, R) 10.00 News; Weather (S) 10.20 Rocky IV (1985) (S) 12.05 Jackpot247 3.00 Mr Selfridge (S, R) 3.50 Nightscreen

Channel 4

6.20 The King of Queens. Carrie and Doug babysit. (R)
6.45 The King of Queens. Arthur works in the senior citizens programme. (R)
7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra offends Lois. (R)
7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. Part one of three. Marie gives Debra the silent treatment. (R)
8.00 Frasier. A doctor's death reminds Frasier of his own mortality. (R)
8.30 Frasier. Frederick announces he is unable to visit at Christmas. (R)
9.00 Frasier. Martin's romance is discussed on air. (R)
9.30 The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon receives acting lessons. (R)
10.00 The Big Bang Theory. A wealthy benefactor makes an indecent proposal to Leonard. (R)
10.25 The Big Bang Theory. Howard is torn between Bernadette and his mother. (R)
10.55 Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Practice 3. Live. Further coverage from the ninth round of the season at Red Bull Ring in Spielberg.
12.25 F1 Meets Murray Walker. The veteran Formula 1 commentator discusses his life and career. (R)
12.55 Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from Red Bull Ring in Spielberg (Start-time 2.00pm).
3.45 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. A Birmingham couple seek a suitable property in Davenport, Florida. (R)
4.45 Escape to the Chateau: DIY. Following British people living in and running French castles. (R)
5.50 Channel 4 News.
6.20 FILM: Titanic (1997). A society girl falls in love with a penniless artist during the liner's ill-fated voyage. James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio.
10.00 FILM: Taken 2 (2012). Former CIA agent Bryan Mills fights to rescue his ex-wife from an Albanian gangster whose son he killed. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson and Famke Janssen.
11.50 Mickey Flanagan: Back in the Game. The comedian performs to his home crowd at London's Hackney Empire, regaling his audience with tales of middle age, marriage and a man's prerogative. (R)
1.20 The Big Narstie Show. The Grime MC and co-host Mo the Comedian present a late-night, alternative entertainment show, joined by celebrity guests to discuss the week's news, TV and trends. (R)
2.15 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Joel decides to focus on Cleo's health and buys them both fitness watches, while Holly is worried she has made a big mistake. (R)
4.25 Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. Kirstie Allsopp helps a couple transform their suburban semi. (R)
4.45 Wedding Town. The staff faces one of the busiest days of the year. (R)
5.10 Cheap Cheap Cheap. Mariana takes fashion inspiration from Noel, Barry receives a worrying phone call from environmental health and Keith goes on a busman's holiday. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Moxy 6.45 Oly the Little White Van 6.55 Simon 7.00 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.20 Thomas & Friends 7.35 Fireman Sam 7.50 Rusty Rivets 8.05 Paw Patrol 8.20 Nella the Princess Knight 8.40 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.55 Floogals 9.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.25 Shimmy and Shine 9.40 Digby Dragon 9.55 Peppa Pig 10.00 Peppa Pig 10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Donatello's grudge against Don Vizzoso jeopardises the turtles' mission. (R)
10.40 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring cats.
11.05 Police Interceptors. Faulko is rammed off the road at 80mph. (R)
12.05 Police Interceptors. Officers track down thieves. (R)
1.05 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A property developer's battle against squatters. (R)
2.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Two agents evict a tenant who is £14,000 in rent arrears. (R)
3.05 FILM: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003). The dizzy heroine is now a qualified lawyer and heads to Washington, DC to put a stop to the testing of cosmetics on animals. Comedy sequel, with Reese Witherspoon and Sally Field.
4.10 Access. Showbiz news and gossip.
4.15 FILM: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003). Concluded.
4.55 5 News Weekend.
5.00 The Wonderful World of Puppies. Hungarian vizsla pup Gilbert undergoes hydrotherapy.
6.00 Blind Date. Paul O'Grady hosts as model and self-confessed attention seeker Plum and dancer Jose each choose between three unseen suitors, based on their answers to a series of questions.
7.00 Karen Carpenter: Goodbye to Love. Dramatised documentary detailing the pop icon's career through the 1970s, when she and older brother Richard clocked up 80 million record sales, to her untimely death. (R)
9.00 Carpenters: Their Greatest Hits. Performances and official music videos of 16 songs featuring the brother-and-sister duo. Narrator Ken Bruce also offers interesting facts regarding Richard and Karen's act. (R)
10.00 The Michael McIntyre Story. Documentary about the comedian's rise to fame, examining his breakthrough performance at the 2006 Royal Variety Show and role in the reinvention of stand-up comedy on TV. (R)
11.30 Michael McIntyre: Live at the Comedy Store. The comedian performs at the famous Soho comedy club, discussing topics including shopping, politics, what Brits call extreme weather, Scottish money and pregnancy tests. (R)
12.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming.
FILM: Fight Club (1999). Drama, starring Brad Pitt.
5.00 Access.

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Countryfile

7pm

Matt Baker and Margherita Taylor present the show from Dorset, visiting a nature reserve famous for birds or prey and meeting a couple with a thriving sea fishing business.



Flog It!

5pm

Michael Baggott and Caroline Hawley are at Normanby Hall in North Lincolnshire to value antiques belonging to members of the public, and Paul Martin takes a trip along the Humber.



Zoe Ball on Sunday

8.30am

The presenter is joined by guests Stephen Mulhern, Jonny Wilkes and Stephen Bailey. Plus, live music from Isaac Gracie, and Book Club with Sarah Hadland.



The Handmaid's Tale

9pm

An incident sends shockwaves through both Gilead and Little America. Serena Joy makes a dangerous choice in order to protect her family. Moira searches for someone from her past.



Bride Wars

5.55pm

Two lifelong best friends become bitter rivals when their weddings are scheduled to take place on the same day and at the same venue. Comedy, starring Kate Hudson.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast.
 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.
 10.00 Sunday Morning Live.
 11.00 Sunday Politics West Midlands. The week's events at Westminster, presented by Sarah Smith. Including a regional round-up.
 12.15 Bargain Hunt. In Oswestry, Shropshire, antiques experts Jonathan Pratt and John Cameron assist two teams of friends competing to buy three items in the hope of making the most profit at auction. (R)
 1.00 BBC News; Weather.
 1.15 Points of View. Jeremy Vine presents a selection of viewers' comments.
 1.30 Songs of Praise. Claire McCollum and JB Gill celebrate 70 years of the NHS.
 2.05 FILM: The Silent Child (2017). Oscar-winning short film, starring Maisie Sly.
 2.30 Escape to the Continent. Alastair Appleton helps a couple who want to escape Hertfordshire for a new life in on the island of Cyprus, with a budget of £375,000 at their disposal. (R)
 3.30 Wanted Down Under. Greg and Jenni Wallen spend a trial week living in Auckland, New Zealand, with Greg keen to return to the country he fell in love with while backpacking. (R)
 4.25 Money for Nothing. The team transform items reclaimed from a skip in the West Midlands. (R)
 5.10 A Question of Sport. Guests include Libby Clegg and Ryan Sidebottom. (R)
 5.40 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong quizzes eight writers – John O'Farrell, Emma Kennedy, Kathy Lette, Kate Mosse, Benjamin Zephaniah, Roger McGough, Terry Deary and Bryony Gordon. (R)
 6.30 BBC News.
 6.50 Midlands Today; Weather.
 7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Margherita Taylor present the show from Dorset, visiting a nature reserve famous for birds or prey and meeting a couple with a thriving sea fishing business.
 8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce visits Floors Castle in Roxburghshire, where items include a piece of Robert Burns memorabilia, a diamond pendant and a jade figurine that is not quite what it seems.
 9.00 Poldark. Ross, Sam and Dwight race to the rescue when blasting in the mines causes a disastrous flood. Ossie plans to have Morwenna committed to an asylum, and Emma has an answer for Sam.
 10.00 BBC News.
 10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.
 10.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. Highlights of the third and fourth last-16 fixtures, as the winners of Group B met the runners-up from Group A, and the winners of Group D faced the second-placed team in Group C.
 11.15 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.
 12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead.
 1.00 BBC News.

In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:
 2.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) 5.10 News (S)
 5.20 Local News; Weather (S) 5.30 Countryfile (S) 6.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) 9.10 Poldark (S) 10.10 News (S) 10.30 Local News; Weather (S) 10.40 Celebrities (S) 10.50 The NHS Frontline (S, R) 11.40 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay (S) 1.25 BBC News (S)

BBC2

6.25 Glorious Gardens from Above. Christine Walkden takes to the skies above Gloucestershire. (R)
 7.10 Gardeners' World. Monty Don and his team of horticultural experts offer viewers at home more gardening tips, from their base in Monty's garden Longmeadow, in Hertfordshire. (R)
 8.10 Countryfile. Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison and Steve Brown present from West Sussex, where they meet people who spend their holidays in a church. Plus, the winner of this year's Farming Hero Award. (R)
 9.05 The Beechgrove Garden. Chris Beardshaw creates a shrub and clematis border.
 9.35 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series, recalling his favourite moments from previous years in the kitchen.
 11.05 Wimbledon 2017 Review. A look back at last year's tournament at the All England Club.
 12.00 Athletics: Diamond League Paris Highlights. The Meeting de Paris. Action from the seventh meeting of the season, which took place at Stade de France.
 1.00 Live Athletics: British Championships. Radzi Chinyanganya presents coverage of the second and final day from Alexander Stadium in Birmingham, where athletes are competing for places at the European Championships.
 5.00 Flog It! From Normanby Hall in North Lincolnshire. (R)
 5.30 FILM: Into the Woods (2014). A wicked witch agrees to lift a curse on a young couple if they will help restore her once beautiful looks. Musical fantasy, starring Meryl Streep and Emily Blunt.
 7.30 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing. Paul and Bob fish for barbel in Hay-on-Wye, and sample the great outdoors in spectacular fashion when Mortimer decides to strip in celebration of their catch. (R)
 8.00 Russia with Simon Reeve. The adventurer travels across the world's biggest country, from the snow-capped volcanoes of Kamchatka and Yakutia, to the eastern port of Vladivostok and on to Siberia. (R)
 9.00 The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan. New series. The comedian visits countries that are rarely visited by tourists. His first destination is Haiti, where he visits the iron market and attends voodoo ceremonies.
 10.00 Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate. Shortly after FBI director James Comey is fired, the Times is onto a huge scoop with ongoing reverberations regarding Comey's memos about his meetings with President Trump.
 11.00 Best of Glastonbury 2017. Jo Whiley and Mark Radcliffe introduce highlights from the festival at Worthy Farm in Somerset. (R)
 1.10 Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from Exeter, chaired by David Dimbleby.
 2.10 Sign Zone: Holby City. A split-second mistake brings Nicky a whole lot closer to Zav than she bargained for. (R)
 3.10 This Is BBC2. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Mission Employable 6.55 The Oddbods Show 7.05 Ninjago: Tournament of Elements 7.30 The Haunted Hathaways 7.55 Drop Dead Weird
 8.25 ITV News.
 8.30 Zoe Ball on Sunday. With guests Stephen Mulhern, Jonny Wilkes and Stephen Bailey.
 9.25 Who's Doing the Dishes? With actor Lee MacDonald. (R)
 10.25 The Best of the Voice Worldwide. Worldwide editions of the singing competition.
 11.20 Midsummer Murders. The discovery of a book dealer's body sparks an investigation, and a second grisly find brings more panic to the English countryside. Drama, starring John Nettles and Daniel Casey. (R)
 1.20 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
 1.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Celebrity edition of the quiz show. (R)
 2.30 Countrywise. Ben Fogle is at St Michael's Mount in Cornwall for a spot of extreme gardening. (R)
 3.00 FILM: Despicable Me (2010). Animated comedy, with the voice of Steve Carell.
 5.00 The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
 6.00 ITV News and Weather.
 6.15 ITV News Central; Weather.
 6.30 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. Paul and the staff try an unconventional technique to calm down an over-excited mongrel, and a young German shepherd turns out to have hidden health problems. (R)
 7.00 Vera. The detective investigates when a mother of two is found dead in her suburban garden – but the case is made more complex when the victim's estranged family put in an appearance. (R)
 9.00 Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera. Documentary series looking at what can go wrong on holiday, including a ski trip that became a fight for survival, and a horrific case of sunburn. (R)
 10.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
 10.15 FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. Highlights of the third and fourth last-16 fixtures, as the winners of Group B met the runners-up from Group A, and the winners of Group D faced the second-placed team in Group C.
 11.15 The Big Fish Off. Jimmy Bullard and Jamie O'Hara join team captains Ali Hamidi and Dean Macey at Anglers Paradise in Devon. (R)
 12.10 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas.
 3.00 Motorsport UK. (R)
 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.
 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:
 2.30 FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) 5.15 Catchphrase (S, R)
 6.00 News; Weather (S) 6.15 Local News; Weather (S)
 6.30 FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) 9.15 Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera (S, R) 10.00 News; Weather (S)
 10.20 Killer Women with Piers Morgan (S, R) 11.15 The Big Fish Off (S, R) 12.10 Jackpot247 3.00 Motorsport UK (2018) (S, R) 3.50 Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show (S, R)

Channel 4

6.05 Motor Sport: Caterham. Highlights from Silverstone.
 6.30 Mobil 1: The Grid. Including a behind-the-scenes look at this year's Le Mans 24 Hours.
 7.00 Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. The Ypres Rally. Frasier, Martin persuades Frasier to take part in a charity auction. (R)
 7.55 Frasier. The Cranes protect Daphne's honour. (R)
 8.25 Frasier. Lillith comes to Seattle. (R)
 8.55 Bake Off: The Professionals. Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the quarter final. (R)
 10.00 Sunday Brunch. Guests include Romesh Ranganathan.
 1.00 Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live Build-Up. A look ahead to the ninth round of the season.
 1.40 Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the ninth round of the season (Start-time 2.10pm).
 4.30 Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live Reaction. A review of the ninth round of the season.
 5.30 Bang on Budget. Lucy Alexander and Harry Hoffen transform a small flat in Clapton.
 6.30 Channel 4 News.
 7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel prepare for winter and attend a food festival in Rouen, where they hope to find inspiration over what to do with their fresh fruit and vegetables. Last in the series. (R)
 8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the semi-final of the culinary contest, in which the four remaining teams face a secret recipe and the unusual challenge of "live plating".
 9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. Serena Joy makes a dangerous choice in order to protect her family, and Moira searches for someone from her past.
 10.15 Night and Day. Spanish crime thriller in which a forensic pathologist is drawn into a dangerous web of torture and scandal surrounding an elusive killer after a man she slept with is killed. The full series is available online.
 11.20 FILM: Alien (1979). A cargo spacecraft is invaded by a deadly creature that begins preying on the crew. Ridley Scott's sci-fi horror, with Sigourney Weaver, Tom Skerritt, Ian Holm and John Hurt.
 1.40 The Last Leg. Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by guest Harry Shearer for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. (R)
 2.35 The Secret Life of the Zoo. The keepers are concerned about a three-month-old Andean bear cub, worrying that its mother's overprotective behaviour may curb its development. (R)
 3.30 Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. The host helps three couples struggling to sell their properties in Norfolk. (R)
 4.25 Mobil 1: The Grid. Including a behind-the-scenes look at this year's Le Mans 24 Hours. (R)
 4.55 Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. Kirstie Allsopp helps Ferne and Peter furnish their home. (R)
 5.05 Cheap Cheap Cheap. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Moxy 6.45 Olly the Little White Van 6.55 Simon 7.00 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends 7.35 Fireman Sam 7.50 Rusty Rivets 8.05 Paw Patrol 8.20 Nella the Princess Knight 8.40 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.55 Floogals 9.10 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.25 Shimmy and Shine 9.40 Digby Dragon 10.00 Peppa Pig 10.05 Peppa Pig

10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Kavaxas threatens to destroy the world. (R)
 10.45 Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring animals.
 11.10 Blind Date. Featuring a model and a dancer. (R)
 12.05 Police Interceptors. World Cup fever hits Essex. (R)
 12.55 Police Interceptors. The team deals with a knife-wielding man on New Year's Eve. (R)
 1.50 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! A debtor in Manchester deploys a range of stalling tactics on officers. (R)
 2.50 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Two agents evict a tenant who is £14,000 in rent arrears. (R)
 3.50 FILM: Bewitched (2005). Romantic fantasy comedy, with Nicole Kidman and Will Ferrell.
 4.50 Access. Showbiz news and gossip.
 4.55 FILM: Bewitched (2005). Concluded.
 5.55 FILM: Bride Wars (2009). Comedy, starring Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway.
 7.25 5 News Weekend.
 7.30 Dirty Dancing: Making Movie Magic. A celebration of the movie phenomenon, revisiting favourite scenes, discovering what happened on set and hearing from the supporting cast and crew. (R)
 9.00 FILM: Dirty Dancing (1987). A dance instructor at a 1960s resort teaches a naive teenager about self-expression as they perform in an important show. Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Edited for language and violence.
 10.00 5 News Update.
 10.05 FILM: Dirty Dancing (1987). Concluded.
 11.05 FILM: The Best of Me (2014). Premiere. Two old friends resume their teenage relationship 20 years on, but the issues that drove them apart still linger. Romantic drama, with Michelle Monaghan and James Marsden.
 1.15 Cricket on 5. Action from the Women's T20 Tri-Nations Series final, which took place at Cloudford County Ground in Chelmsford, Essex.
 2.15 Wentworth Prison. Bea discovers she was drugged to simulate a psychotic episode. (R)
 4.00 Now That's Funny! Internet-sourced videos with an amusing family friendly hook. (R)
 4.45 House Doctor. Highlights of the series. (R)
 5.10 House Busters. Life-enhancing changes to a home. (R)
 5.35 Wildlife SOS. A pigeon in need of assistance. (R)

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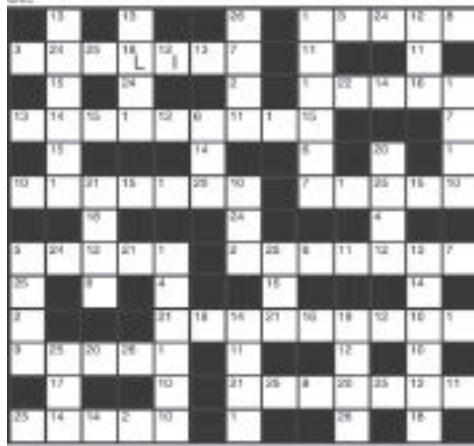
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

A	L	N	H	K	P	G	I	V	W	J	M	C	B
Q	O	F	D	E	W	T	S	U	Z	X	R	Y	

Quiz

- What is the Roman name for Odysseus?
- Of which mountain range is Mount McKinley the highest?
- Which John Travolta film won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1984?
- What is the smallest US state?
- Of which religion is a Parsee or Parsi a follower?
- Which Brighton-based boxer once earned:

- £10m in an eight-light package with Sky TV?
- Which race is the blue riband of the English horse-racing season?
- Which film company merged with MGM in the '80s?
- Which town in Greater Manchester includes Old Trafford cricket ground?
- Which Hollywood star's first name is Eldred?

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

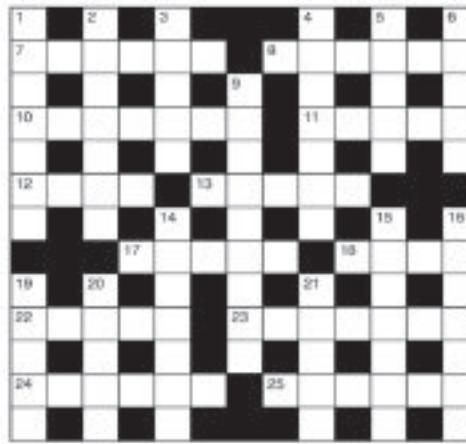
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Area for a walk on board (6)
- Foreign office (6)
- Under it changes are yet to be made (7)
- Come gradually to the point? (5)
- Cheese that's made the wrong way (4)
- Sober way to help (5)
- Their accounts cannot be relied upon (5)
- Broken knee produces a plaintive cry (4)
- I'm illuminated round the edge (5)
- Cavians might produce such greed (7)
- Empty one container into another (6)
- A small-holder in the fruit trade (8)

Down

- Puts it on without being told? (7)
- Not wholly biased (7)
- Memorial of old priest outwardly Roman Catholic (5)
- Support us in shame (7)
- Hurry up, they're hard to fathom (9)
- Extravagant when out and about (5)
- Leaders of newspapers (5)
- Nowhere near cool enough (7)
- Draughtsman's intentions? (7)
- Discover something new in airways? (7)
- Being made to work (5)
- A sparkling vessel? (5)
- Number get a fever that's ill-defined (5)
- View (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Pick (6)
- Bower (6)
- Contain (7)
- Boost (5)
- Huge (6)
- Bonstic (5)
- Hester (5)
- Solitary (4)
- Slack (5)
- Shorten (7)
- Fix (6)
- View (6)

Down

- Accomplish (7)
- Tense (7)
- Outcome (5)
- Courage (7)
- Knave (5)
- Bonstic (5)
- Fiddle (9)
- Patric (7)
- Warrior (7)
- Under (7)
- Fissile (5)
- Awaken (6)
- Itty bitty (5)

Sudoku

5		7	2	3
3	4	5	9	
6		1		
7	8	2		6
5		4	1	
6		9	5	2
	9	1		7
7	3		5	
4	2	5	7	9

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Light; 4 Funeral; 6 Ordnance; 9 Monet; 10 Bader; 11 Clangour; 13 Moles; 14 Stun; 16 Partnership; 17 Chess; 20 Yacht; 21 Sleeper; 25 Lassoes; 29 Poses. Down: 1 Look before you; 2 Granite; 3 Trim; 4 Priest; 5 Nominate; 6 Rangoon; 7 Bazaar; 8 Walk; 12 Alleviate; 13 Misadventure; 15 Nurses; 18 Rapier; 19 Leap.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Light; 4 Funeral; 6 Ordnance; 9 Monet; 10 Bader; 11 Clangour; 13 Moles; 14 Stun; 16 Partnership; 17 Chess; 20 Yacht; 21 Sleeper; 25 Lassoes; 29 Poses. Down: 1 Look before you; 2 Granite; 3 Trim; 4 Priest; 5 Nominate; 6 Rangoon; 7 Bazaar; 8 Walk; 12 Alleviate; 13 Misadventure; 15 Nurses; 18 Rapier; 19 Leap.
QUICK - Across: 1 Greed; 4 Chamber; 6 Asinine; 9 Flag; 10 Dust; 11 Accusant; 12 Mean; 14 Snag; 16 Quagmire; 17 Piss; 20 Blot; 21 Survival; 22 Treason; 23 Press; Down: 1 Grandiloquent; 2 Excel; 3 Dale; 4 Cliché; 5 Affluent; 6 Falling; 7 Righteousness; 12 Hamlet; 13 Measure; 15 Prison; 18 Agile; 19 Grip.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

741782
87654928
3732662

gives an element,
gives a second element,
gives a scientific instrument.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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MOTORING

New Peugeot 5008 SUV scoops a top tow award

The all-new Peugeot 5008 SUV 2.0 BlueHDI EAT8 S&S GT was selected as number one in the 1550-1699kg category by expert judges from Practical Caravan, What Car?, and Camping & Caravanning.

The seven-seat SUV was praised for its comfort, stability, pulling power – and bold styling – by the panel who tested 44 cars across four key areas: towing, everyday driving, practicality and ownership.

Performed

Each car was tested by towing a caravan ballasted to 85 per cent of the car's kerb-weight, or the legal towing limit if that figure is lower.

The 5008 SUV performed well in tests including a hill start on a one-in-six slope, an emergency lane change and towing at up to 70mph using GPS technology to judge stability.

Ride comfort, handling prowess, refinement and passenger space were also assessed by expert road testers while seasoned caravanners assessed the boot space and the fitment of towing-friendly features such as a trailer stability system and rear-view camera.

Safety, reliability, running costs and value for money were also



The Peugeot 5008 is ideal for family touring holidays

considered as part of the Tow Car Awards with the new Peugeot 5008 SUV winning the 1550-1699kg category.

David Motton, tow car editor, Practical Caravan, said: "All our judges were hugely impressed with the all-new Peugeot 5008 SUV. It was exemplary in our lane-change test and stable at speed, too.

"The all-new 5008 SUV rides

comfortably, both with and without a caravan hitched up, and the engine is refined and smooth. Inside, the Peugeot is a very practical seven-seater – ideal for family touring holidays.

"What's more, the 5008 SUV is refreshingly bold and stylish.

"That may not have clinched the Peugeot's class win, but it certainly didn't hurt!"

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Diesel Selection

18 (18)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCI TECNA, Ink Blue	DUE IN
16 (16)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI Tekna, Force Red	DUE IN
15 (64)	BMW 118 D, 2.0TDI SE, in Grey, 19,000 miles.....	DUE IN
15 (15)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 TD, SRI Tourer, in red	DUE IN
15 (15)	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 CDTI TECH LINE White, 11,000 miles only..	£8,995
14 (14)	KIA CEED 2.1 1.6 CRDI Track Red	£9,650
14 (14)	FORD MONDEO 1.6CDT GRAPHITE Silver	£9,850
14 (63)	RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE M-NAV Flame Red	£8,975
13 (63)	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI Exclusive Grey	£11,850
13 (13)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCI Acenta White	£7,650
13 (13)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCI Acenta PREMIUM White	DUE IN
12 (62)	PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 HDI ACTIVE Silver	£8,950
12 (12)	SEAT IBIZA 1.2 TDI SE ECOMOTIVE Grey	£7,250
12 (12)	PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI SPORT, in Black	£5,450
11 (11)	VW GOLF PLUS 1.6 TDI S, Silver	DUE IN
11 (11)	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0L CDTI Exclusive, Estate, in White	£4,950
11 (11)	Nissan QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta Force Red	£8,950
10 (10)	BMW 118D SPORT, 5 door, white	DUE IN
10 (10)	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION Silver	£6,850
10 (10)	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION Pearl Black	£6,850
09 (59)	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta Cappuccino	£6,850
09 (09)	PEUGEOT PARTNER, 1.6 HDI, in red	DUE IN
09 (09)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 CDTI DESIGN 5-dr. Silver	£4,650
08 (68)	VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2.0 TDI SPORT Lovely Condition, Blue	£6,850
08 (08)	VW GOLF 1.9TDI S, 5 door, in Silver	DUE IN
05 (55)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI DESIGN Black	£7,850

Petrol Selection

17 (66)	PEUGEOT 208 1.2 Active, 9,000 miles, Shark Grey	£9,450
17 (17)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TOURER 1.4T, SRI, in silver, 7,000 miles	DUE IN
16 (66)	KIA PICANTO 1.0L Air, 5 door, Blaze Red	£7,850

4x4 Selection

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14 (14)	SKODA YETI OUTDOOR, 2.0 TDI S, Pacific Blue	£10,450
10 (60)	SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6 S SZ5	£7,850
10 (10)	KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI, 1st Edition, in Silver,	£9,950
10 (10)	SUBARU IMPREZA 1.5 RX Black, Low Mileage	£6,250

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04 (04)	MINI ONE 1.6 3 door, Silver	£2,850
04 (04)	MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE Chili pack, Horizon Blue	£6,650

08 (08)	MAZDA MX-5 2.0 NISEKO ROADSTER Silver	£7,850
07 (07)	PEUGEOT 207 CC Sport Convertible Red	£2,995
06 (06)	PEUGEOT 207 SE 16V 5-dr. Silver Grey, 9,000 miles	£5,650

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Aimed at the family buyer, it shares that seven-slot grille and Jeep badging and engines with its siblings

Time to start planning your Jeep adventure?

By Carmel Stewart

I have to confess to being a big Jeep fan, the rough and rugged Wrangler with its removable doors and roof, and fold down windscreen being top of my list. It is a vehicle built for rallies, rivers, mud and slush and is bought by adventurous outdoorsy types who can build shelters out of twigs, light a fire without matches and live off the land. Not me then.

The badge-sharing newly updated Compass is an altogether different proposition and perhaps more my mark. Aimed at the family buyer, it shares that seven-slot grille and Jeep badging and engines with its more audacious siblings but is clearly a more refined, more mainstream choice. And, given that it has headed straight for the exceedingly competitive SUV segment, that is probably a wise move on Jeep's part.

It comes with plenty of choice – five engines – two petrol and three diesel; three trims – Sport, Longitude and Limited, with a top spec Trailhawk on the way; manual or automatic gearing; and two-wheel drive or four-wheel-drive, thus ensuring that every possible base is covered.

Amount

Prices for the entry-level Sport, start at a not unreasonable £23,040, especially given the amount of standard kit which includes a five-inch touch screen, Bluetooth, DAB radio, smart phone connectivity, automatic headlights, day time running lights, cruise control, brake assist, forward collision warning, hill start assist, 16-inch aluminium wheels, and, of course, a compass. Also fitted as standard is a highly efficient lane departure warning system which tweaks the steering wheel should you cross the white lane without indicating. But this version is only available as a front-wheel-drive manual with the 1.6 litre diesel engine.

Every additional trim level adds more kit, more engine choices and more money, so the Compass Longitude starts at £25,000 for the 2WD, 1.4 litre 140hp petrol engine, again with the manual transmission.

The tested, very comfortable, Limited adds an 8.4-inch touch screen, smartphone connectivity, GPS navigation, heated leather well-padded front seats, electric lumbar adjustment, a heated steering wheel, rain sensitive wipers, parallel and perpendicular park assist, rear view camera, 18-inch wheels and trailer sway damping. Every version has a spacious, well-built



The high driving position affords good all-round visibility



There is a large, flat-loading, practical boot

interior with plenty of leg and head room. The high driving position affords good all-round visibility and the large, flat-loading, practical boot means there is no need to clutter up the cabin with luggage. The vehicle's looks can be jazzed up by opting for a metallic exterior colour with a contrasting roof. Bronze with a black top, for example, will add £1,100 to the final tally.

On the road, the 1.6 MultiJet 120hp diesel engine tested proved slightly less refined than some of its rivals, being a little noisy on start-up. Once warmed up and rolling, however, it showed itself to be a smooth operator and well up to the task of tackling country lanes and dual carriageways as well as the inevitable motorways.

And it does have the huge plus of being delightfully economical. Official figures show a very pleasant average of 64.2mpg. If the 1.4 litre MultiAir II 140hp petrol is your preferred choice, expect around 46mpg.

Its six-speed manual transmission

was sharp and to the point and the suspension well suited to UK roads. Opt for the 4WD automatic and Selec-Terrain is included which allows for a smooth passage over sand, snow and mud. It also allows the driver to lock the central diff, thus splitting the torque equally between the front and rear axles for increased traction in severe conditions.

Prices for the Compass Limited start at £28,000 for the manual front-driven 1.4 litre petrol, with a premium of £995 added for the 1.6 MultiJet engine.

Transmission-wise, there are two gearboxes – a six-speed manual or a nine-speed automatic.

The four-wheel-drive system of the Limited model is Active Drive I. Hang fire until September when the new Trailhawk is due and you'll be able to put Active Drive II to the test. It features Rock mode for crawling, Hill Descent Control and Low-Range transfer.

Time to start planning your Rubicon (family) adventure, perhaps.



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Smethwick	9	4	2	2	0	1	130
Knowle & D	9	5	0	3	1	0	124
WB Dartmouth	9	4	2	2	0	1	117
Moseley	9	4	1	4	0	0	109
Walsall	9	3	2	3	0	1	100
Dorrige	9	3	1	4	0	1	97
Kenilworth W	9	2	3	3	0	1	87
Ombersley	9	2	2	4	0	1	81
Barnet Green	9	2	1	5	0	1	78
Wolverhampton	9	1	1	6	0	1	59

Division One 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Kidderminster	9	7	0	2	0	0	153
Tamworth	9	6	0	2	0	1	130
Halesowen	9	3	2	3	0	1	120
Shifnal	9	5	1	3	0	0	116
Bridgnorth	9	4	1	4	0	0	114
Bromsgrove	9	4	0	4	0	1	111
Barnards Green	9	4	1	3	0	1	103
Oswestry	9	3	1	4	0	1	100
Leamington	9	2	2	4	0	1	93
Himley	9	3	2	3	0	1	88
Brockhampton	9	2	0	6	0	1	75
Wellington	9	1	2	6	0	0	56

Division Two 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Walmley	9	5	1	2	0	1	127
Harborne	9	2	5	1	0	1	126
C & R Hawks	9	5	1	2	0	1	124
Penkridge	9	4	1	2	1	1	122
Pershore	9	3	3	2	0	1	116
Attock	9	3	1	4	0	1	108
Fordhouses	9	3	0	5	1	0	105
Coventry & N.W.	9	4	1	3	0	1	102
Sutton Coldfield	9	3	2	3	0	1	100
Wombourne	9	3	1	5	0	0	93
Astwood Bank	9	2	1	5	0	1	74
Streetly	9	2	1	5	0	1	70

Division Three 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Stourbridge	9	7	1	0	1	0	160
Stratford-U-Avon	9	6	1	1	0	1	147
Rugby	9	6	0	2	0	1	134
Redditch	9	3	1	4	0	1	108
Handsworth	9	4	0	3	0	2	105
Old Hill	9	4	1	3	0	1	102
Lichfield	9	3	0	6	0	0	90
Pelsall	9	3	1	4	0	1	89
Newport	9	2	1	5	0	1	81
Old Elizabethans	9	3	0	5	0	1	80
Miford Hall	9	2	0	6	0	1	69
Whitchurch	9	1	2	5	0	1	61

Premier Division 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Leamington	9	7	0	1	0	1	153
Shifnal	9	6	1	1	0	1	139
Wolverhampton	9	5	0	2	0	2	123
Kenilworth W	9	4	1	2	0	2	114
Tamworth	8	3	1	3	0	1	101
Walney	9	3	2	3	0	1	98
Knowle & D	9	3	2	3	0	1	96
Harborne	9	2	2	4	0	1	86
Attock	9	1	3	4	0	1	83
Brockhampton	9	2	1	5	0	1	75
Moseley	8	2	1	4	0	1	71
Himley	9	1	0	7	0	1	52

Division One 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Bromsgrove	9	6	1	1	0	1	152
Halesowen	9	6	0	2	0	1	138
WB Dartmouth	9	5	0	3	0	1	125
Astwood Bank	9	5	0	3	0	1	123
Walsall	9	5	0	4	0	1	114
Ombersley	9	4	1	3	0	1	110
Penkridge	9	3	1	4	0	1	108
Coventry & N.W.	9	4	1	3	0	1	103
Barnet Green	9	3	2	3	0	1	100
Wombourne	9	2	1	6	0	0	86

Division Two 1st XI (N)

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Bridgnorth	9	8	1	0	0	0	186
Fordhouses	9	7	2	0	0	0	173
Pelsall	9	6	1	2	0	0	150
C & R Hawks	9	3	2	3	0	1	109
Smethwick	9	3	2	3	0	1	108
Miford Hall	9	4	2	2	0	1	106
Wellington	9	3	2	4	0	1	105
Old Hill	9	4	2	5	0	1	103
Lichfield	9	2	1	5	0	1	85
Newport	9	1	0	7	0	0	50
Worcester	9	1	1	7	0	0	50
Whitchurch	9	1	0	7	0	0	46

Division Two 2nd XI (N)

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Bridgnorth	9	8	1	0	0	0	186
Fordhouses	9	7	2	0	0	0	173
Pelsall	9	6	1	2	0	0	150
C & R Hawks	9	3	2	3	0	1	109
Smethwick	9	3	2	3	0	1	108
Miford Hall	9	4	2	2	0	1	106
Wellington	9	3	2	4	0	1	105
Old Hill	9	4	2	5	0	1	103
Lichfield	9	2	1	5	0	1	85
Newport	9	1	0	7	0	0	50
Worcester	9	1	1	7	0	0	50
Whitchurch	9	1	0	7	0	0	46

Division Two 2nd XI (S)

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Berkswell	9	7	1	0	1	0	168
Kidderminster	9	5	1	2	1	0	133
Dorrige	9	5	0	3	0	1	126
Redditch	9	3	1	5	0	1	116
Handsworth	9	4	0	3	0	1	108
Old Hill	9	4	1	3	0	1	102
Lichfield	9	2	1	5	0	1	85
Newport	9	1	0	7	0	0	50
Worcester	9	1	1	7	0	0	50
Whitchurch	9	1	0	7	0	0	46

Division Three 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Bridgnorth	9	8	1	0	0	0	186
Fordhouses	9	7	2	0	0	0	173
Pelsall	9	6	1	2	0	0	150
C & R Hawks	9	3	2	3	0	1	109
Smethwick	9	3	2	3	0	1	108
Miford Hall	9	4	2	2	0	1	106
Wellington	9	3	2	4	0	1	105
Old Hill	9	4	1	3	0	1	103
Lichfield	9	2	1	5	0	1	85
Newport	9	1	0	7	0	0	50
Worcester	9	1	1	7	0	0	50
Whitchurch	9	1	0	7	0	0	46

Division One 2nd XI

	P	W</th
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Pritchard is a big hit for England

A SHROPSHIRE squash player has celebrated her first cap for England in style - by winning all of her matches.

Linda Pritchard made her England debut where they won the Home Internationals beating Scotland and Wales.

Pritchard, who lives near Shrewsbury, called it an amazing experience after securing a clean sweep in all of her games.

The 46-year-old said: "It is amazing, really, to get called up for England.

"I have been training and playing for quite a while. It was exciting and I am delighted."

Pritchard earned the England call-up - to the Ladies Over-45 team - after her success at the British Open last year, where she triumphed in the Plate competition.

As it was her first international call-up, Pritchard was seeded fifth out of England's five players but won all her matches, helping them to overall victory.

Pritchard said: "We won 5-0 against Wales and Scotland.

Challenging

"I felt I played really well. I won my matches against Wales and Scotland 3-0.

"Ireland didn't play so England put out a B team who we beat 4-1.

"That was probably my most challenging match. I won that 3-2.

"I had a match point played against me but I managed to turn it around.

"If I would have lost that it would have been 2-2, putting more pressure on our last player, but I won 3-1 meaning we won."

Ireland were due to play in the competition at Nottingham Squash Club but they pulled out due to a lack of players.

Instead, England fielded their B team to fill in the gaps but those matches were not played competitively.

The competition saw each team field five players, who are seeded, and the winner of each match earns their country a point. The overall score is a best of three. The other age categories were the men's over-45 and Men's over-65 - which England also won.

Pritchard is currently ranked fourth for her age category in England.

Shropshire Cricket Lge fixture list

Premier division: Frankton vs Ludlow, Quatt vs Wem, Newtown vs Madeley, Sentinel vs Wofford, Bomer Heath vs St Georges, Conn NG.

Division one: Forton vs Alberbury, Pontesbury vs Alberbury, Knockin and Kinnerley vs Shropshire, Condover vs Watchpool, Market Drayton vs Bedstone, Wroxeter and Uppington vs Alscott Heath.

Division two: Willey vs Ludlow 3, Shifnal 3 vs Shrewsbury 3, HPTCC vs Ellesmere, Wellington 3 vs Montgomery, Lilleshall vs Bishop's Castle, Church Aston vs Wheaton Aston.

Division three: Cae Glas vs Iscoyd and Fens Bank, Much Wenlock vs Acton Reynald, Chelmarsh vs Harpers, Prees vs Hinckton, Calverhall vs Church Stretton, Overton on Dee vs St Georges.

Division four: Trysull and Seisdon vs Bridgnorth 3, Quayside vs Gisfield, Harcourt vs Coton Hall, Oswestry 3 vs Beacon 3, Column vs Corvedale, Llanidloes 3.

Second teams

Division one: Alberbury 2 vs Frankton 2, Worfield 2 vs Sentinel 2, Montgomery 2 vs Wellington 4, Shifnal 2 vs Knockin and Kinnerley 2, Wem 2 vs Quatt 2, St Georges 2 vs Wroxeter and Uppington 2.

Division two: Ludlow 2 vs Willey 2, Beacon 2 vs Lilleshall 2, Conn 2 vs Broseley, Madeley 2 vs Newtown 2, Acton Reynald 2 vs Shifnal 4, Alscott Heath 2 vs Bomer Heath 2.

Division three: Ellesmere 2 vs Condover 2, Iscoyd and Fens Bank 2 vs Cae Glas 2, Welshpool 2 vs Market Drayton 2, St Georges 4 vs Much Wenlock 2, Abberbury 2 vs Alscott Heath 3, Quatt 3 vs Forton 2, Bishop's Castle 2 vs Lilleshall 4, Corvedale 2 vs Pontesbury 2.

Sunday

Division one: Worfield 3 vs Pontesbury 3, Wellington 5 vs Knockin and Kinnerley 3, Newport 3 vs Shropshire 3, Corvedale vs Lilleshall 3, Frankton 3 vs Sentinel 3, Wem 3 NG.

Division two: Knockin and Kinnerley 3 vs Wellington 6, Madeley 4 vs Bridgnorth 4, Whitchurch 3 vs Bomer Heath 3, Oswestry 4 vs Madeley 3, Ludlow 4 vs Alberbury 3.

On-a-roll Jones maintains hot form for leaders

STEVE Jones extended his terrific form as Llanrhedra A continue to set a hot pace at the top of the Oswestry and District Bowling League second division after brushing aside Criftins C.

The unbeaten Jones (21-10) was the best of the night as he stretched his winning run to 11 matches for the league leaders who ran out emphatic 9-1 victors (157-119).

Emry Roberts also weighed in with a 21-12 success, while Anthony Gillam (21-10) provided some consolation for the visitors from Diddleston Heath.

Second placed Criftins B stayed in touch with the leaders but were made to battle before overcoming visitors Johnstown D 6-4 (145-137). Andrew Milner led the way to nine.

Weston Rhyn A, in third spot, lost ground on the pacesetters after their 7-3 (141-113) reverse at Johnstown B.

Derek Taylor (21-10) was their best of the night, with Andrew

Riley (21-12) not far behind.

At the other end of the table, Church B eased their basement concerns after hammering George A 9-1, taking the aggregate by 42 shots (155-113).

Dave Smith (21-4) proved too hot to handle for the home side, while Andy Knott provided the lone response by winning to eight.

Ellesmere A were left popping up the table after their 9-1 (162-80) beating at Ye Olde Croft A whose Iain Butler (21-1) was in unstoppable form. John Dovaston (21-15) provided some cheer for the visitors.

In the night's other second division action, Plas Kynaston A were 7-3 (139-127) winners at home to Llangynog A.

LLANYMNECH A continue to flounder in the lower reaches of the division one after being downed 6-4 (152-133) at home to Whittington A.

James Cardlin produced a 21-13 card for the lowly hosts, but his efforts were not enough as Aled Davies' convincing 21-1 win helped set up Whittington's victory. Davies has won eight of his 10 matches this term.

Defending champions Ceiriog Valley A tightened their grip at the top of the table with a 10-0 (168-95) thrashing of visitors Chirk A.

Third placed Ruabon A faltered after being edged out 6-4 at home to Criftins A, losing the aggregate by just one shot (145-144). Gary Wilkie led the way for the Diddleston Heath side with a 21-10 verdict.

Church A remain in the lower reaches after their 9-1 (153-112) setback at second placed Llangollen A, with Merv Weaver (21-6) providing the one bright note.

Flexsys A swamped Corwen A 9-1 (153-91), while Johnstown A ran out 7-3 (143-134) winners at Cywyd A.

Chirk B remain at the summit of division three after their 8-2 (160-108) home success against Ceiriog Valley C helped by a 21-3 hand from Alan Jones.

Church Lions, in third, turned up the pressure in the same division after their 7-3 (147-119) verdict at Whittington B. Alex Jones led the way 21-7 while Brian Sinker was a 21-11 victor for the visitors.

Other results

Division two: George 3 (126) Johnstown B 7 (154).

Division three: Church C 10 (168) Bersham 0 (114), Chirk B 8 (160) Ceiriog Valley C 2 (108), Llanymynech Foxes 7 (160) Ifton 3 (98), Johnstown C 8 (156) Llangollen B 2 (114), Ceiriog Valley B 6 (146) Ruabon B 4 (143), Whittington B 3 (119) Church Lions 7 (147).

Division four: Llanrhedra A 9 (167) Whittington 1 (194), Penybont Broughton 9 (162) Overton A 1 (114), Criftins D 8 (151) Overton B 2 (105), Ellesmere B 7 (143) Weston Rhyn B 3 (140), Llangynog C 4 (137) Llanymynech B 6 (149), Llanllyfni A 4 (129) Llanrhedra C 6 (132).

Division five: Llanymynech C 7 (145) Criftins E 3 (120), Ye Olde Croft B 7 (145) Weston Rhyn C 3 (128), Llanrhedra B 7 (141) Whittington C 3 (123), Chirk C 4 (136) Ponciau Park A 6 (145), Cywyd C 3 (136) Corwen B 7 (139), Plas Kynaston E 2 (121), Johnstown E 1 (142).

Division six: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

Unsung heroes all set for awards night

FOOTBALL by Steve Box

MORE than 150 nominations have been whittled down to 20 as the county prepares to celebrate all that is great about grassroots football.

The Shropshire FA Community Awards are taking place on Friday at the Lord Hill Hotel in Shrewsbury where ex-England international Steve Hodge will be the guest speaker.

The awards have proved a huge hit since being introduced in 2010 and a host of accolades will be dished out across various categories.

A judging panel has already sat to decide who should make the shortlist - and we can today reveal who is in the running.

Shropshire FA chief executive Roy Waterfield said: "With the help and support from our sponsors, this celebration of the achievements of thousands of volunteers in sustaining grassroots football is our way of shining a light on their incredible contribution to the nation's favourite team sport and thanking them for helping develop the game."

Categories include Shropshire FA Referee of the Year, FA Charter Standard Club of the Year, FA Charter Standard Development Club of the Year, FA Charter Standard Community Club of the Year, FA Charter Standard League of the Year, Best Inclusive Project of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year, Coach of the Year, Outstanding Contribution to Adult Football and Respect Club of the Year.

And the shortlist for each category is...

Best Inclusive Project of the Year 2018: Grange Park Primary School & Shrewsbury Juniors Football Club.

Coach of the Year 2018: Josh Gough/Sean Evans/Stuart Lewis.

FA Charter Standard Club of the Year 2018: NC United Football Club/Wrockwardine Wood Juniors Football Club

FA Charter Standard Development Club of the Year 2018: Shrewsbury Up & Comers Football Club

FA Charter Standard Community Club of the Year 2018: Preees Junior Football Club/SAHA Football Club/Shrewsbury Juniors Football Club.

FA Charter Standard League of the Year 2018: Shropshire Junior Football League/Telford Juniors Football League.

Outstanding Contribution to Adult Football 2018: Lee Mitchell/John Edge.

Respect Club of the Year 2018: Preees Junior Football Club/NC United Football Club.

Young Volunteer of the Year 2018: Marc Warde/Daniel Thomas/Kieron Chadderton.

Referee of the Year 2018: Regan Gough/Michael Day/Kai Bray.

The judging panel comprised Shropshire Football Association football operations manager Mick Murphy, SFA chairman Dave Simpson, SFA football development team leader Darren Beech and Shropshire Star assistant sports editor Steve Box.

The evening will boast a World Cup theme and Hodge, whose son Elliot has a loan stint at AFC Telford, will no doubt have a tale or two to tell about infamous 'Hand of God' goal scored by Diego Maradona against England during the 1986 tournament in Mexico.

Hodge played in the 2-1 quarter-final defeat and picked up a souvenir of the occasion - Maradona's shirt.

Beech added: "Volunteers are the lifeblood of sustaining and developing grassroots clubs and the Community Awards recognise the vital contribution they make, giving their time and dedication for the love of the sport."

BOWLS by John Bridgwater

Riley (21-12) not far behind.

At the other end of the table, Church B eased their basement concerns after hammering George A 9-1, taking the aggregate by 42 shots (155-113).

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Division eight: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

Division nine: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

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Division eleven: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

Division twelve: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

Division thirteen: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

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Division sixteen: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

Division seventeen: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

Division eighteen: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

Division nineteen: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

Division twenty: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

Division twenty-one: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

Division twenty-two: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B 2 (134) Llangynog B 8 (142), Church E 2 (112) Chirk D 8 (157), Weston Rhyn D 3 (112) Ruabon C 7 (158), Ponciau Park B 9 (166) Llanrhedra E 1 (71).

Division twenty-three: Whittington D 9 (152) Church D 1 (91), Hampden Arms 7 (142) Overton BB 3 (135), Llanllin B

Tennis club net a point after trip to Baschurch

OSWESTRY Tennis Club's Men's team continued their successful season with a good draw away to Baschurch 1.

With their regular first pair unavailable Dave Clough and Brett Hollywell were brought up from the second team and they acquitted themselves exceptionally well winning 6-3, 6-3 and only just missing out against the first pair in a deciding third set tie break 4-6, 7-6, 0-1.

The regular pairing of Gary Edwards and Matt Grice also lost out to the Baschurch first pair 3-6, 2-6 but beat the second pair 6-3, 6-4. This result keeps them firmly at the top of the division with only one fixture remaining.

The Ladies third team had back to back fixtures this week, both away. The first at leaders Hinckley saw them draw with Jo Dalietos and Amanda Coxhead winning 7-6, 6-3 but losing their second rubber on a deciding third set tie break 4-6, 6-3, 0-1.

Similarly Catherine Fern and Emily Lowe took their first rubber 6-1, 6-3 but again lost out on a deciding third set tie break 7-5, 4-6, 0-1.

The team then travelled to Whitchurch to play Hollies 4 coming away with all four points. Catherine Fern and Emily Lowe and captain Linda Davies won 6-1, 6-0 and 6-1, 6-1. In the reverse rubbers Dalietos and Davies again overcame their opponents easily 6-0, 6-3 but Fern and Lowe needed a tie break to decide their first set 7-6.

The ladies second team played an away fixture at the Wrekin Tennis Club but lost in all four rubbers.

Frankton fall short in their quest for runs

FRANKTON slipped back into the lower reaches of the Shropshire League premier division after being downed by 54 runs at Worfield.

Three wickets apiece from Jacob Northwood (3-23) and Richard Parry-Jones (3-39) kept Frankton in the hunt as Worfield were dismissed for 173 in 39 overs helped by some late order resistance.

Those late runs for the hosts were to prove crucial as Frankton subsided to 119 all out in reply as Ryan Quiney (3-16) and Matthew Rees (3-18) shared six of the wickets. Scott Hale top scored with 26 at three.

It was also a disappointing day for FRANKTON II who succumbed by 101 runs to their Worfield counterparts at Hardwick Park in the 2nd XI League division one.

Batting first, Worfield were bowled out for a challenging 243, before dismissing their hosts for 142 in 25.2 overs.

Harry Walker (55) and Lewis Rolason (42) provided the chief contributions for the visitors, before Will Weir snapped up 6-42 to keep Frankton on the pack foot.

Pool planning a second team

WELSHPOOL Rugby Club have applied to enter a second team into a newly formed North Wales League next season.

It is hoped several clubs in the region will support the league by entering their second strings, with applications to be submitted by Tuesday, July 10 at the latest.

Matches will be played on alternate weeks, and a cup competition will also be run in the second half of the season.

"With growing numbers at the club, we are massively excited about having two senior sides out again," said a Welshpool club spokesman.

Ellesmere all square in last ball tie

HIGH-RIDING Ellesmere were involved in a thrilling last ball tie following a fluctuating home encounter with Wellington III in the Shropshire Cricket League division two.

Chasing 155, the Meresiders struggled early on before being bowled out off the penultimate delivery to finish level with their visitors.

The leaders picked up 13 points for their efforts in an absorbing affair, and the result preserved their unbeaten league form as they remain a commanding 51 points clear at the top of the table.

Ellesmere would have fancied their chances after dismissing Wellington for 155 in 43 overs, Joe Austin collecting 3-25 and Ashley Thomas 2-28. No9 Lewis

Gough provided chief resistance with 48 to swell the visitors' total. But they made a disastrous start in reply, losing six wickets cheaply, before losing their final wicket with the scores all square. For the visitors, Ronan Bagry proved a handful with 3-14 off nine overs, which included five maidens.

MONTGOMERY continue to hang onto the coat tails of the leaders in division two after securing a 57-run success over Lilleshall.

Put in to bat, they were bowled out for 182 in 45 overs, before dismissing their visitors for 125.

Opener Andrew Barker made 69 to set up the Monty total, with Rob Bennett (27) and Harry Wilkinson (20) chipping in with useful contributions.

Charlie Conquest proved the main threat with the ball in taking 3-15 off nine overs.

The bowlers got stuck into the Lilleshall batting, with Wilkinson, Ed Bennett, Charlie Kinsey and Sam Williams all taking two wickets.

A century from Alister Corfield sentenced ELLESMERE II to a 45-run defeat at Pontesbury II in the 2nd XI League division three.

Corfield hit 105 as Pontesbury rattled up an impressive 250-4 from their 40 overs, wicketkeeper Chris Edwards giving good support with 52 while Felix Ashley took. Ashley then struck 48 in Ellesmere's reply but Ellesmere slipped to defeat with one ball left to lose ground on the leading pack.

Welshpool gifted win as opponents concede tie

WELSHPOOL'S revival continued without bowling a ball as visitors Market Drayton conceded their Shropshire League first division clash.

Poole had won their previous two outings, and collected another 20 points to further boost their cause as they look to push towards mid-table.

Welshpool's second string did get on the pitch - and secured a 47-run success away to Lilleshall IV to push up the 2nd XI League division three.

Electing to bat first, they were bowled out for 170 in 35 overs, before dismissing their hosts for 123 to collect 20 points.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY lost ground on the leaders in division one after slipping to a 99-run loss at one of their chief rivals, Al-brighton.

After winning the toss, Al-brighton piled up 307-7 in 45 overs with

Chris Morris smashing 102 with 16 fours and fellow opener Adam Simmons weighing in with 77 in a first wicket stand of 153.

For the bowlers, Jak Jones emerged with a creditable 3-15 and Dan Morris took 2-53.

It was to prove to be ex-Shropshire County cricketer Shimmons' day. Having opened the batting and scored 77, he also opened the bowling and took 4-50 from his nine overs.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY II notched their first win of the season when they defeated Wem II by four wickets in the reserve division one.

Their bowlers and fielders performed well to restrict Wem to 226 but it was the batsmen who won this game for the home team. Dave Jones is having a good season, but he played some of his finest hits in making a classy 68.

Alongside him, birthday-boy Jonny Evans made a brilliant 85 not out, and they ensured that Knockin's first win of the season could be celebrated in some style.

Captain Marcus Williams was delighted, saying: "We've worked hard all season and not had much luck, so this win was really a culmination of all that has gone before."

Knockin's third team are back on top of the Sunday League division one with a four wicket win over Worfield III after chasing down 228 with 10 balls left.

Seven-up Fynn stars in Oswestry's win

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

WARRICK Fynn weaved his magic with the ball as Oswestry secured a shock 81-run victory at high-riding Tamworth to push themselves towards mid-table in the Birmingham League division one.

After the Morda Road men had slipped to 151 all out after being 57-0, left arm spinner Fynn again showed his all round worth by taking seven wickets as Tamworth crumbled to 70 all out.

Victory came against all the odds after skipper Robbie Clarke - already without key players Joe Carrasco and Roman Walker - was forced to make further late changes.

However, his severely depleted team showed tremendous spirit to overcome their Staffordshire hosts who had won their first six games of the season.

A brilliant spell of spin bowling by Fynn (7-20), well supported by paceman Rituraj Roj Singh (2-41), saw the home side routed for just 70 in the 26th over.

In so doing, Oswestry collected maximum points, and moved a further two places up the table.

Earlier, Fynn had batted well for 28 before going for an inexplicable second run and suffering the consequences to be run out.

Charlie Morris (18) and the undefeated Ian Davies (10) were the only other Oswestry players to reach double figures.

A total of 151 always looked below par - but that was until Fynn and Singh began to weave their web as they bowled Oswestry to a memorable victory.

Meanwhile, Oswestry's second team enjoyed an entertaining game with the C & R Hawks in the reserve division, but in the end had to settle for a draw on a glorious afternoon at the Stonehouse Oval.

Chasing a total of 280 after the Hawks had been put in to bat, the home side closed on 213-5 with the three Josphes all among the runs.

The young opener was finally dismissed for a watchful 76 which once again underlined his promise.

Earlier, Nick Williams was the pick of the Oswestry bowlers with 3-48 while Kirk 42-45. Despite the plucky draw, the Morda Road side remain in the lower reaches of the Birmingham League 2nd XI League division two (north).

Big turnout for time trial series



Paragon rider Tom Richardson during the Oswestry Paragon time trial series

ROUND seven of the Oswestry Paragon time trial series had another good turnout of forty riders on a dry and breezy evening.

Again there was another new rider at the top of the leader board and it was Paramount

CRTs Sam Blackbourn whose time of 21min13 gave him a six second winning margin over

Velotek RT rider David Williams

(21min19) on his first visit to the course. Third place went to Wreccles Tri's Andrew Campbell (22min34) ahead of another Paramount newcomer Jonathon Goh who clocked 22min52.

Ben Pierce of Mid Shropshire Wheelers was the quickest junior in 23min27 giving him seventh place ahead of Marches CC's Gil Bryan (23min32).

Glyn Jones (24:03) managed to come home a second ahead of fellow Paragon rider Lee Williams (23:04) to take tenth place. This stretches Jones's lead in the points series giving him 133pts ahead of Jack Young (76pts).

Steve Taylor (105 points) holds a one-point lead over Glyn Jones (104 points) in the handicap series for most improved rider.

Rare defeat for champions New Saints

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints tasted a rare defeat against Welsh Premier rivals Bala Town as they continued their UEFA Champions League build-up at sun-drenched Maes Tegid.

After their 1-0 success against Cefn Druids a few days before, the Saints were undone by the Lakesiders whose Chris Venables and Kieran Smith earned their side the friendly spoils after Ryan Brobbel had fired the visitors in front.

Although the Welsh Premier champions have only lost once before to their opponents - that coming in the Welsh Cup final two seasons ago - they would not be too unduly worried about the result.

Next up is a home friendly against Falkirk on Friday night (7pm) as TNS step up their preparations ahead of their trip to Macedonia's KF Shkendija on July 10 in the Champions League first qualifying round first leg.

Brobbel gave the Saints a 15th minute lead after

latching onto a loose ball, but the hosts rallied with skipper Venables firing home a fine strike 10 minutes later before Smith popped up for a winner on 57 minutes.

TNS were soon ahead when Draper's pass was blocked before falling to Brobbel who beat his marker before smashing his shot into the roof of the net. Bala, however, quickly hit back when Venables found space in between the TNS defence to latch onto Andy Mangan's through ball before firing past Paul Harrison from the edge of the box. But it was the Lakesiders who took the lead when a lapse saw Blaine Hudson's clearance hit keeper Harrison, giving Smith the chance to head the ball home.

In the week, a second half strike from Aeron Edwards saw The New Saints secure a 1-0 victory over neighbours Cefn Druids in their opening friendly at Park Hall.

Glas edged out in close away defeat

CAE GLAS remain in the basement places in the Shropshire League division three after being edged out by two wickets in a low scoring affair at Church Stretton.

Put in to bat, they were restricted to 127-9 in 40 overs, with George Candler holding the innings together with 47 while Dave Edwards chipped in with 18 late on.

There were two wickets apiece for Edward Groom and Saif Khalid, while Keith Yapp (1-18 off eight) picked up one wicket against his old club.

Khalid struck 46 at the top of the order to keep Stretton in sight of their target, and James Evans made 23 at five, but the Glas picked up wickets at regular intervals.

But the hosts managed to get over the line with six overs left, despite Dave Edwards taking 3-29 and Andrew Carter 2-22.

GUILSFIELD slipped to fourth in division four following a seven wicket loss at home to rival challengers Harcourt.

After being put in to bat, they folded for a modest 104 in the 27th over, before the visitors knocked off the runs with relative ease to leave Guilsfield with just two points.

Sport

Cycling
Bumper turnout for
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Cricket
Fynn has batters
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Monty look
to maintain
top form

MONTGOMERY bid to stay in touching distance of the Shropshire League division two leaders when they make Saturday's trip to Wellington III (1pm).

Sam Williams' side have been in fine form of late, cementing second spot with their 57-run success over Lilleshall, although they still trail high flying Ellesmere by 51 points.

Ellesmere, who are still unbeaten and who visit Hodnet this weekend, were involved in a thrilling tie last weekend against Wellington who are certain to prove a test for resurgent Monty.

In division one, Welshpool bid to maintain the revival away to Condover having won their last two outings, before being handed the points last weekend when Market Drayton forfeited their fixture.

In the same division, Knockin & Kinney welcome Shelton as they aim to bounce back from their 99-run loss to Albrighton.

Frustrating

Knockin were tamed by an opening stand of 153 from Chris Morris and Adam Shimmons, and captain Jak Jones said: "Today was frustrating because, if we could have broken Albrighton's opening stand, then I feel we could have got a result and credit to our bowlers who stuck at it."

"In the run chase, I think the game was there for us, and young Dan Morris proved there were runs out there to be had."

"We'll lick our wounds and regroup for Saturday when we have a 'six-pointer' against Shelton."

Cae Glas host Iscoyd & Fenns Bank in division three as they look to move away from the basement regions, while Gullsfield are away to Quayside as they bid to get back to winning ways in division four.

Frankton play host to Ludlow as they chase much needed points to stay clear of basement danger in the premier division.

Midfielder Jones signs off at Guils

GUILSFIELD'S long serving midfielder Gareth Jones has parted company with the Clos Myton club after 17 years.

The club stalwart will join Caersws as No2 to new manager Mark Griffiths who took over from Graham Evans following the Bluebirds' relegation to the Spar Mid Wales League.

Jones admitted it was a tough decision to leave a club close to his heart, but was relishing the chance of taking a management role and the challenge that lies ahead.

Meanwhile, Alex Cookson has taken over as first team manager at Spar Mid Wales League division one side Kerry.

After spending last term as reserve team boss, Cookson will replace Joe Andrew who has stepped down after eight years at the helm.

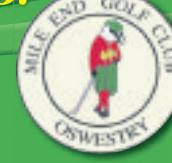
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TNS boss is
off scouting
for Euro tie

THE New Saints boss Scott Ruscoe was this week getting a close look at his team's UEFA Champions League opponents KF Shkendija.

Ruscoe headed to Austria where the Macedonian high-fliers were stepping up the build-up for their first qualifying round tie with a friendly against Croatian side FK Osijek.

Shkendija, who are based in Tetovo, won the Macedonian First League by a commanding 35 points last season, the second time they have lifted the national title.

However, Ruscoe expected them to face a sterner challenge in Wednesday's warm-up clash against the Croatians who finished fourth in their national league.

"Although it means going to Austria to watch them, it will be good to get an insight into how they play first hand and report back," he said.

"They are head and shoulders above sides in their league, so it will be interesting to see how they do against stronger opposition from Croatia."

"We can assess their strengths and weaknesses, see how they set up, and look to exploit that."

"We have already looked at highlights of their games, looked at how they play and who their key players are."

The Saints continue their own preparations with a couple of friendlies against Scottish opposition - at home to Falkirk on Friday (7pm), followed by Rangers on Tuesday in Glasgow.

While Shkendija drew their opening friendly 1-1 with Slovenian side Domzale, the Saints suffered a 2-1 loss to Europa League representative Bala Town in their warm-up last weekend.

After TNS play their first leg tie in Macedonia, the return will take place at Park Hall the following Tuesday (17 July, 7pm).

Should they progress, TNS will then take on either Georgian champions FC Torpedo Kutaisi or Moldova high fliers FC Sheriff Tiraspol in the second qualifying round at the end of next month.

Meanwhile, the Saints hope to complete their final pre-season signing this week.

Champion League tickets go on sale

TICKETS for The New Saints' Champions League home tie against Macedonians KF Shkendija went on general release this week.

The second leg of the first qualifying round match will be played at Park Hall on Tuesday, July 17, with a 7pm kick off.

Tickets were available from Monday, with general admission costing £12.50, silver hospitality £20 and gold £35.

Tickets can be purchased either on line or from the club at the Park Hall stadium. The first leg at KF Shkendija is scheduled to be played the week before on Tuesday, July 10 at the Philip II Arena in Skopje (kick off 7.15 GMT).

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